

MARCH 2013

the Hummer

free

Arts,
Entertainment
& Ideas

The Art of Dirk Mietzker p.3



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March's Events



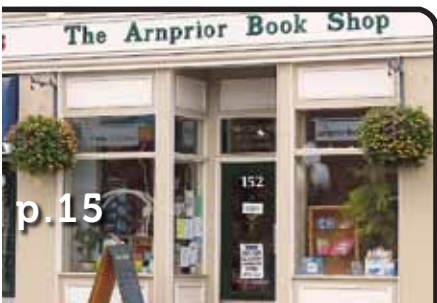
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Cedar Cove Resort



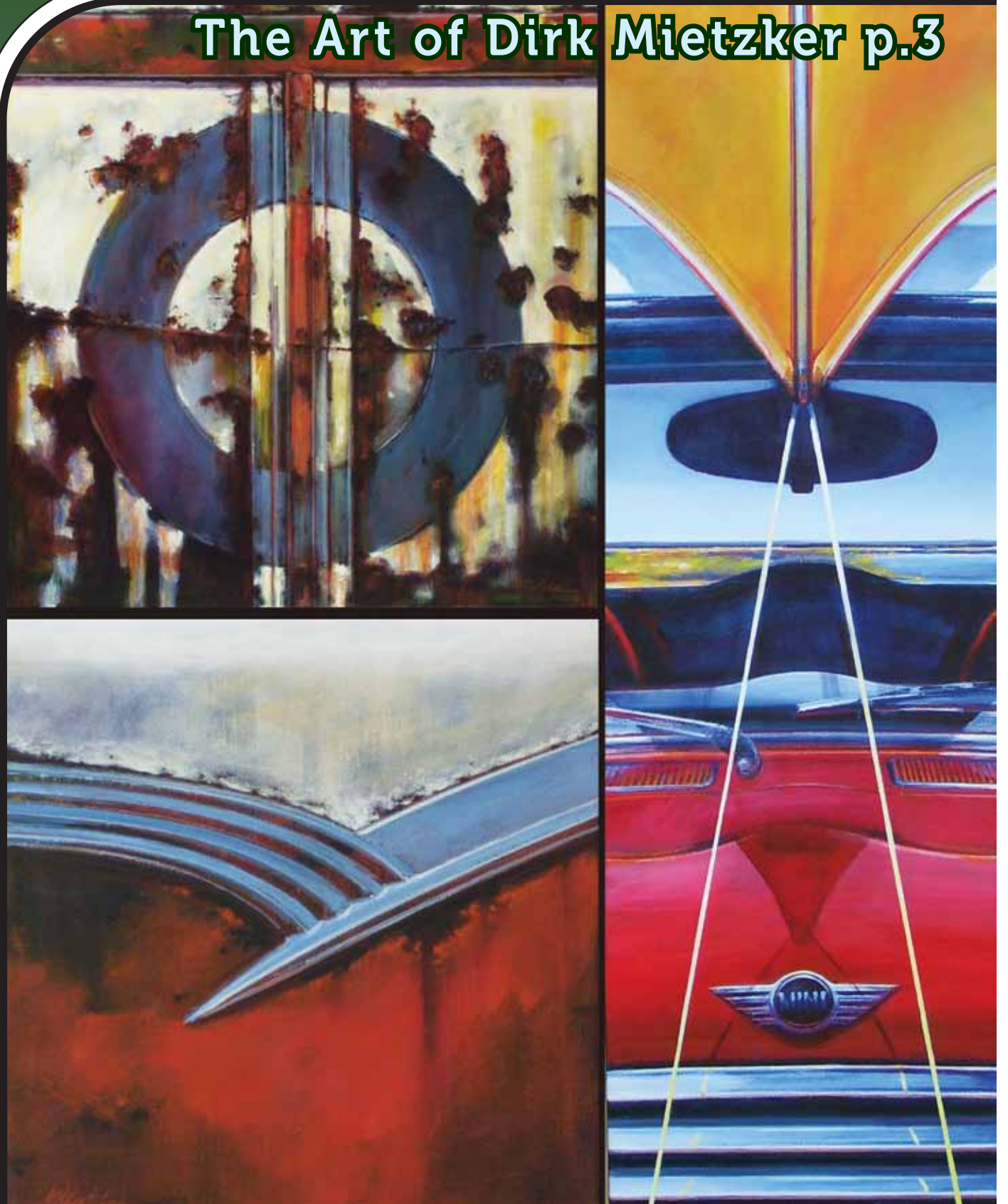
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Flavour of the Month



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Celebrating 20 Years



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“Coincidence, I’m sure, but I can’t find one single pair of my trousers!!”

One That Got Away

Oops — we forgot to include this listing in last month’s “Get Involved, Get Connected” issue about volunteer opportunities throughout Lanark and Renfrew Counties:

Heritage Mica Days <heritagemicadays.ca> is celebrating the history of mica mining and our early settlers, from June to October. Volunteers are needed for hospitality, selling tickets, social media, parking management, care of musicians, culinary expertise on the BBQ or pancake griddle, and support for our historical performers. There are also opportunities for volunteers to participate in the interpretation of one of the historical characters. Volunteers receive a festival t-shirt and heritage costumes can be loaned. Contact 267-5340 or <eventsmurphys@ripnet.com>.

To learn more about this year’s Mica Days plans, see page 25.



Who’s Reading theHumm

Back in early 2011, **Jeff Broughton** (known to many in the Mississippi Mills area as a stalwart volunteer with Puppets Up! and the Young Awards Gala) read theHumm in Cuba. During that trip, he also found time to get married to **Amanda** (looking over his shoulder). Thanks to you both for sharing this great shot from your special trip with us!

This month we received the following poem from a loyal reader, Tim Gordon, who also happens to be the publisher at General Store Publishing House:

*I appreciate the time you put into your product,
You do such wonderful work
I always look forward to the first of the month
To read that which leads us from murk*

This led to an exchange of emails during which we discovered a mutual appreciation of bad poetry. Which leads us, dear readers, to the announcement of the **General Store Publishing House** and theHumm’s

Bad Poetry Contest

The Rules

A maximum of eight lines, any form (haiku, etc). GSPH’s poetry editor will judge them. They must be sent to submissions@gspH.com (with “Poetry contest” in the Subject line) by May 5, 2013. Winners will be announced in the June issue of theHumm.

The Prizes

First place receives a \$100 GSPH gift certificate
Second place receives a \$50 GSPH gift certificate
and Third place receives a \$25 GSPH gift certificate

On a completely unrelated note (well, except for the whole poetry angle), we are also happy to announce the winner of the Pêches et Poivre Valentine’s **Ode to Chocolate Contest**: Ashley Clouthier! Here is her prize-winning entry, with her photo below:

If I Could Marry Chocolate

*If I could marry chocolate, then these would be my vows:
(Forevermore I’d swear to honour milk-producing cows)*

*The day that I first met you, you swiftly stole my heart.
The moment that you touched my lips I swore we’d never part.
You’re the one I turn to, if I’m ever feeling blue,
You know just how to make me smile when you suggest “Fondue?”
Your love is so apparent, the way you melt into my hand,
It’s wonderful the way you seem to truly understand.
Variety’s the spice of life, or so the people say,
Fruity, nutty, super sweet; I love you any way.
Sometimes you do play hot and cold, but either suits me gladly,
I’ll never leave your side, my love; I’d miss you far too badly.
From now until eternity, there’s one thing that I know,
We’ll live in life’s sweet heart-shaped box, wrapped tightly with a bow.
And if you don’t love chocolate, how crazy this all seems,
But I know I’d live in total bliss, making baby cocoa beans.*



PO Box 1391
Almonte ON K0A 1A0
Phone: (613) 256-5081

Editor:
Kris Riendeau
editor@thehummm.com

Layout and Design:
Rob Riendeau
rob@thehummm.com

Advertising and Promotions:
Kris Riendeau: (613) 256-5081
kris@thehummm.com

Assistant Editor:
Rona Fraser
rona@thehummm.com

Calendar Submissions:
calendar@thehummm.com

theHumm is a monthly arts, entertainment and ideas newspaper delivered free to businesses and visitor attractions in Almonte, Perth, Carleton Place, Westport, Pakenham, Carp, Arnprior, Lanark, Smiths Falls, Burnstown, White Lake, Balderson, and Ottawa. Our mandate is to connect and promote people and events in the small towns and rural communities of the Ottawa Valley — where the arts flourish and entertaining characters run amok!

Submissions
By email or on disk.

Deadline for ads & content: the 22nd of the month prior to publication

Subscriptions
cost \$35 (includes HST) for one year (12 issues). Send a cheque with your name and address to: theHumm PO Box 1391 Almonte ON K0A 1A0

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Thanks this month to:
The good folks who fed us on our distribution rounds last month: **Read’s Book Shop** for their great (and timely) coffee and **The Renfrew Teaeoom** for “the best butter tarts in the Valley.”

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 10:30-11, 12:30-1 and 3:30-4
March 17
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Dirk Mietzker — Painting the Beauty of Time

In business school they instruct you to “plan your work and work your plan.” Smith Falls artist Dirk Mietzker is much more open and flexible. When he stopped in to lend a hand to some neighbouring farmers a few summers ago, he became intrigued with the old barns they were working in during the haying season. What began as an exercise in friendliness and physical fitness segued into an inspired series of paintings.

by Sally Hansen

“In the Loft” is a gorgeous example of how Mietzker transforms a commonplace structure that most of us overlook, into a celebration of form, light, and colour. Through his juxtaposition of the symmetry of the original skeleton against the irregular play of light and shadow filtering through the cracks of the weathered structure, he exposes Time’s ineluctable hand on the canvases of our human endeavours. Unlike the relentless consumer marketing campaigns that denigrate any evidence of aging in our Western culture, Mietzker pays tribute to its beauty and dignity.

His background in industrial design informs his fascination with what we design and build. Many of his paintings feature familiar artifacts of our civilization, such as buildings, vehicles and bridges. But Mietzker’s art focuses on the evidence of their history. He zeroes in on the debris clinging to rafters, the designs that time has etched into once-glossy high-tech finishes, the curves and crevices eroded into concrete and wood by weather and human usage. He draws attention to the stage each object occupies in its life cycle. He finds and reflects beauty in each phase.

Each artist searches for his or her voice. Dirk Mietzker finds his on walks through his hometown of Smiths Falls. His first true inspiration occurred when he was taking his daughter for a walk to the train station not far from their home. The result was a series of acrylic paintings of segments of train cars. You can see examples of these visually compelling works at Gallery Perth <galleryperth.com> by clicking on his name under “Artists Represented”.

Walking remains his primary inspiration, particularly when the weather is changing. “Every time I walk, something pops out. Once you start looking, everything appears really different during a snow storm or in the fog or when the evening or morning

sun hits a particular spot.” The names of some of his works illustrate his fascination with the interplay of nature and weather with human artifacts: “Clouds Passing By”, “Snow Caressing Steel”, “Evening Blue”.

I Can See Clearly Now

To optimists, every cloud has its silver lining. Mietzker’s personal life-cycle story is even more interesting than those of his artistic subjects — he possesses human resilience and ingenuity that so far we have not been able to replicate in our industrial artifacts. Shortly after he and his wife, Diane Provost, moved from Montreal to Smiths Falls with their infant daughter to pursue Dirk’s career as an industrial designer, his Kanata-based firm downsized. After a fruitless search for work in his field, the couple decided to give Dirk the opportunity to build an artistic career in between his responsi-



bilities as the baby’s primary caregiver, while Diane taught art in the public school system.

It was a tough transition, but Mietzker found that the freedom of creating art as your own “boss” was a liberating change from the endless criticism and questions he faced as a designer. These days, his only authorized critic is his well-qualified wife, and she judges each painting by the same simple but exacting criterion: “Do I feel something when I look at it?”

His breakthrough as a professional artist occurred in 1996, shortly after his first public exhibition at the Heritage House Museum in Smiths Falls. An American couple noticed his paintings at



ARTIST TRADING CARD

a gallery in Merrickville and invited him to exhibit his work at their gallery in Vermont where he was represented for ten years until their recent retirement. Dirk is represented locally at Gallery Perth and participates in Westport’s annual Rideau Valley Art Festival. He has had several recent exhibitions in Almonte. Both Dirk and Diane have exhibited works at the annual, juried Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibit at Nathan Phillips Square.

Last July one of his paintings received an honourable mention at the Marianne van Silfhout Gallery at St. Lawrence College in Brockville. It was also chosen as the poster for the exhibition whose theme was Space. Titled “Suspended between Space and Time,” Mietzker’s inspiration for the work was the wing of the plane that brought him back to Canada from a visit to Venice.

It is a surprising but fitting subject choice for an artist who lists names utterly unfamiliar to me as his major inspirations. To better appreciate Mietzker’s work, take a Google glance at: Syd Mead (pioneer and figurehead in automotive, industrial, and film design, famous for film projects like *Blade Runner* and *TRON*), Giorgetto Giugiaro (Italian automobile designer named Car Designer of the Century 1999,) and architect Eero Saarinen (known for the Gateway Arch in St. Louis and paradigm-shifting furniture like the “Womb Chair” and ottoman he designed in the late ’40s.)

Mietzker tells me, “What they create is stimulating. Exactly how it relates to what I’m doing now isn’t so clear, other than being inspired by people who do great work.” He adds, “For me, painting is my way of trying to understand the world — discovering who we are through art. All of the things I paint were originally ideas created in the human imagination.”

The best way to enjoy Dirk Mietzker’s art is to drop in at Gallery Perth in Code’s Mill (264-8338). Images are also available at <galleryperth.com>. You can contact him by phone at 284-0702 or by email at <dirkmietzker@hotmail.com>.

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WHO Dirk Mietzker

WHAT Acrylics Painter

WHERE 20 Foster Ave., Smiths Falls, <dirkmietzker@hotmail.com>, 284-0702;

Gallery Perth in Code's Mill, 17 Wilson St. E.,
Perth, 264-8338,
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The Long Road to Easy

Folkus presents Ariana Gillis and the Claytones

I had an art teacher who opened every year with the tale of *The Artist and The Emperor* (actually, she often told the punchline first). In essence, the Emperor of a long-ago China commissions a portrait of his favourite koi. The artist promises to begin right away. A month later, an emissary is sent — no portrait. Again, the same scenario, month after month. Finally, the Emperor himself travels to the studio, seeking his portrait. Immediately, the artist prepares pen, paper and ink, and proceeds to draw the most exquisite fish ever. The Emperor sputters, "But that only took minutes! Why did I have to wait a year?" The Artist replies, opening a door to reveal a room full of drawings, "Your Majesty, it took me a year to make it look this easy."

The fable serves as an apt introduction to a pair of acts that make it look so easy. Both the Claytones and Ariana Gillis benefit from strong musical pedigrees, tight sound, and lead singers who make it look like singing is as easy as breathing. In an age of pitch corrections and overdubs, their vocal abilities are not just refreshing — they're stunning. But rest assured, a lot of hard work and a lot of miles on the road are what it takes to make it look so effortless and sound so sweet.

Ariana Gillis, even at the age of 22, is no longer a newcomer to the music scene. Pegged early as a rising star, blessed with an intense voice, a soaring range, and strong songwriting abilities, Gillis is ready to be taken seriously — not "the next big thing", just her own self. With two albums under her belt and a lot of time on the road, Gillis is at ease on the stage. With a ringing voice and strong folk guitar, moving from originals like the popular *Simon Brooke*, to covers like *All Along the Watchtower*, Gillis' brand of folk-pop will fill the Almonte Old Town Hall with sound, and the listener with delight.

The Claytones, their name a nod both to old-school music acts and their home base on Clayton Lake, are no strangers to the area, but having them home instead of on the road is a comparative rarity. The band features the combined writing and



The final Folkus concert for this season features a double bill with Ariana Gillis (above) and The Claytones (below) on March 16 in Almonte

playing talents of Anders Drerup, Adam Puddington and Kelly Prescott. Each has produced well-received projects in their own right, but the band is definitely more than the sum of their parts. You'll come for Prescott's beloved smoky voice, but the sweet, sweet harmonies are a treat, as are Puddington's bass playing, and Prescott and Drerup's guitar work. As you might expect from an act so proudly rooted in the Ottawa Valley, there is a country tinge to their sound, but there are also hints of late nights listening to old blues albums, and maybe the odd night around a campfire. It should be a sweet night.

Call for submissions — and a survey

Folkus wants your input. We try to surprise and delight, but sometimes we overlook old favourites. We want to bring in the talent you're dying to share with the rest of us. If your brother's sister-in-law's cousin has the best band ever, we want to know about it. We'll be passing out a paper survey at the next show, and will also provide a link at <folkusalmonte.ca>.

As always, Folkus presents its concerts in the Ottawa Valley's acoustic gem, the Almonte Old Town Hall. Doors open March 16 at 7:30PM. Showtime is 8PM. Refreshments and merchandise will be available; debit will not. Details and tickets are available at Mill Street Books in Almonte and at <folkusalmonte.ca>. Singles are \$27 in advance or at the door.

— Sandy Irvin



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Cedar Cove Resort — A Hidden Gem

One of our favourite perks of running *theHumm* is getting the scoop on all the wonderful attractions that make this area so... well... attractive to live in or visit. We tend to feel like big know-it-alls when it comes to promoting Lanark and Renfrew Counties, but occasionally we find a “best-kept secret” that reminds us that there is still lots more out there to discover. Cedar Cove Resort is one such gem — hidden to us, but apparently not to the hundreds of seasonal visitors and dozens of staff that make it one of the most popular destinations and largest employers in the County.

Nestled along 3500 feet of White Lake waterfront (which includes a 300-foot sandy beach), the resort is probably best known as a seasonal campground. Having recently completed work on their stunning new all-season Lakeside Grill, however, owners Wes and Carol Pugh would like Cedar Cove to be top-of-mind throughout the year! The new dining room, built after a fire took down the old structure in 2011, was designed by Wes to make full use of their beautiful view of the lake. The upstairs seats 92, with capacity for another 80 on the deck once the weather warms up. On the day we went out to interview Wes and Carol, we dined on two of chef Bill Cox’s lunch specials: a prime rib of beef melt (with caramelized onions, sautéed mushrooms and havarti



on a cheddar-chive panini bun), and the eggplant parmesan (featuring panko- and parmesan-breaded eggplant, a sprightly tomato sauce and mozzarella, with a side Caesar salad). Other specials included Moules Frites (P.E.I. mussels), seafood pasta (pictured here) and a curried carrot soup. We must confess, that would be another of our favourite perks...

Being a little off the beaten track, Carol and Wes realize that they have to work to bring people out to dine during the off-season. Fortunately, they have a plethora of temptations to draw winter travellers in: several cozy, winterized cottages; ice fishing shacks; access to local snowmobile trails. Add to that the fact that the new dining room is very versatile — able to accommodate multiple parties, or have a portion of the room transform into a dance floor. Wes and Carol envision group bookings for Christmas parties, New Year’s festivities (including Wes’s fireworks display), and even “Winter Beach Parties.” Weekend getaway cottage rental packages are also available.

After eating our delicious lunch and touring the snow-covered grounds and one of the cozy rental cottages, we were certainly convinced, but also curious as to what would lure the Pugh family (which includes sons Adam and Eric, who also help with the business) from Barrie, Ontario,

out to the wilds of White Lake. A connection to Wes’s parents Bob and Thora Pugh (who used to own the Stonebridge Inn in Pakenham) was certainly a draw, but by 2005, after rising to the post of national Director of Construction for The Brick, Wes was tired of spending so much of his time travelling far from his growing family. As he put it, “my kids grew two feet, and I was there for two inches of it”. He also felt that he was working too hard to be doing it for someone else, and so began looking for investment opportunities in this area. Carol, who has a background in the hotel and motel business, initially thought he was crazy to consider something as large as the resort, but the well-established business with its community of regularly returning guests proved to be a very viable option.

Wes and Carol clearly have very complementary skills and a great deal of respect for each other. It’s not every couple that can manage a large team of mostly teenaged seasonal employees, or deal with the concerns of a summer community that is the size of a small village. By the time spring rolls around, they will be back to managing not only the restaurant and resort, but also rental cottages, RVs and boats, a grocery store and their full-service marina. Because Cedar Cove Resort is a favourite destination for many families, they also work hard to keep the park



Cedar Cove Resort owners Carol and Wes Pugh in their stunning new Lakeside Grill dining hall, overlooking White Lake

kid-friendly and safe, and to provide loads of activities for all ages. But if his stress level rises, Wes just watches the traffic and crime reports from Toronto and is reassured that they made the right decision!

So do be sure to visit them soon and experience their wonderful Lakeside Grill — and if you don’t want to worry about driving home afterwards, just call ahead and reserve a cottage! But we also encourage you to keep them in mind when the warm weather returns and the wilds of White Lake beckon.

Cedar Cove Resort is located near the village of White Lake, and they can be reached at <vacation@cedarcove.ca> or 623-3133. You can also check them out online at <cedarcove.ca>.

— Kris and Rob Riendeau



214 Borden Rd.

Likely one of the best locations in the area. Imagine going to sleep on a summer evening listening to a babbling waterfall. Located on one of the largest waterfront lots on Glen Isle, this two bedroom plus year round home has spectacular views of the Mississippi River and unspoiled shoreline. Recent upgrades include a high efficiency furnace November 2010, java maple wood floors and ceramic tile throughout, roof 2010, drywalled full height basement is ready for floor and ceiling, all interior doors replaced, raised well head with submersible pump 2010, propane rental hot water tank 2010, exterior trim freshly painted. Originally three bedrooms on the second floor, the current owners removed a wall to create a larger second bedroom. This wall can easily be replaced and a fourth bedroom could be created in the lower level. The property also boasts large decks front and back, two large garden sheds, beautiful landscaping, and a garage big enough for three cars with electricity. Glen Isle is only twenty minutes to Kanata and less than ten minutes to shopping in Carleton Place yet completely private and peaceful. Enjoy kayaking and swimming right from your shore. The river floor directly off the shore is a large flat rock that is perfect for young children to play in. The waterfront view includes a low waterfall and forest on a small island. Visit our web site for a virtual tour!



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Seedy Sundays!

The 6th annual Seedy Sunday in Pembroke will be held on Sunday, March 3, from 10AM to 3PM in the Cafeteria Auditorium at Fellowes High School (420 Bell Street). Admission is free. Come for an hour, stay for the day! All new and experienced gardeners, local food lovers and the curious will want to attend.

Seedy Sunday is a remarkable phenomenon that continues to catch on across Canada. Gardeners, seed savers, seed vendors, local food producers, organic practitioners and environmental groups come together in a venue where they can learn from one another, exchange ideas and seeds, and purchase seeds and plants in a fun social setting. It's a day to learn about and promote local food, more sustainable methods of growing, and the preservation and use of heirloom, organic and open-pollinated seeds. Please remember to bring any of your own seeds, cuttings, plants or gardening treasures to exchange at the Swap Table.

Presentations during the day are free. Presenters have a wealth of knowledge to share and welcome all your questions! The talks begin at 10:30AM with learning about "Teas for Health from Your Garden" with Faye Langlois of The Magic of Herbs. At 11:30AM, join Daniel Brisebois from Tourne-Sol Cooperative Farm for "How to Save Your Own Seeds". At 12:30PM, explore "Growing Garlic" with Zach Loeks of Rainbow Heritage Garden. At 1:30PM, Jay McLaren inspires "Gardening Success with Companion Planting". Don't miss this opportunity to meet with these presenters and with the many other fantastic exhibitors that will be happy to answer all of your questions!

Food and refreshments will be available. A local lunch, prepared by the Fellowes Culinary Arts students, will be sold between 11AM and 2PM by the Ottawa Valley Food Co-operative <ottawavalleyfood.org>. Enjoy the local foods of the Valley and the buskers' corner featuring some wonderful local musicians, take part in the silent auction, and possibly win one of many door prizes.

Seedy Sunday is a non-profit event, operated by volunteers, and sponsored by the Ottawa River Institute <ottawariverinstitute.ca>. Net proceeds will be donated to Seeds of Diversity <seeds.ca>, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of heritage seeds. Organizers are still looking for volunteers, so please contact them if you have an hour or more to share.

For more information, contact Claire Lepine at 628-1836 or <claire42@hughes.net>, or Pat Tamosetis at 625-2277 or <earthwalks@distributel.net>.

Seedy Sunday in Perth

Perth's Seedy Sunday will be March 3, from 10AM to 3PM, at the Royal Canadian Legion (27 Beckwith Street East). Hosted by the Perth Farmers Market, this seed sale includes seed sellers, farmers' market vendors, community groups, workshops and a canteen. Lots of fun to get ready for the gardening season! For further information, contact <smackenzie@juno.com>.

Operation: Plant Food 4 Life

"You can solve all the world's problems in a garden." — Geoff Lawton

Plant Food 4 Life aims to create edible, awe-inspiring gardens and collectively share the experience and abundance of locally-grown, nutrient-rich food, starting right here at home in rural Perth.

Do you find yourself growing hungry for real food? Do you want to explore sustainable, simple and effective ways of growing your own gardens? Are you seeking to connect with innovators in the field of sustainable food systems? Are you searching for a rural food project to contribute to or be involved with? Then look no further!

We are creating an educational food site, of beauty and diversity, by using the wisdom of permaculture design and agroecology (à la Ken Kern, Geoff Lawton, Sepp Holzer). To put it simply, we are creating sustainable and practical systems where food will grow in abundance, with awe-inspiring natural designs.

Our mission is to develop a socially innovative rural hub, where people can collectively share in the origins of food, and unite in the care of community and the Earth. Our experience will translate into workshops, courses, summer camps, children's gardens and much more.

Our team has been able to secure access to eight acres in rural Perth. This land now bears the name of Agapé Gardens. Agapé stands for the selfless, all-encompassing love that God has for us.

Currently, Agapé Gardens is in Phase I of creation. The site does not yet have power, a well, or structures to host people. The soil

layer on the land is thin and mostly bedrock. Fortunately, turning desert into lush paradise is exactly our expertise! Using our knowledge and years of experience in growing food, our step-by-step plan will create ecologically sound structures and thriving food systems for our challenging conditions and cold climate.

ronment for all kinds of life forms to thrive, including animals, beneficial insects and especially microbial humus creating life!

This is the beginning of what we affectionately call Plant Food 4 Life: a paradise of abundance created from genuine care of the people, care of the Earth, and return of the surplus.

Once we complete the creation of Agapé Gardens, our aim is to extend our help to others in starting, designing and implementing their personal gardens of paradise, one slice of heaven at a time. A very important part of our vision is to work in the future on a national and global scale to create similar edible, awe-inspiring gardens for communities in need of innovative, sustainable food systems right in their own backyards.

Would you like to learn more? Register for our upcoming workshops at <agapegardens.ca>. Want to see and hear us live? We will be presenting in Ottawa at the Permaculture Convergence on Saturday, March 23. Would you like to contribute to our project or inquire about opportunities we offer? Please contact Sebastien and Dasha at <plantfood4life@gmail.com>, find us on <GreenOffOn.com>, or visit our websites: <agapegardens.ca> and <plantfood4life.ca>.

Want to drop off unwanted old hay, stumps, fallen trees, aged manure or any other soil-building material? We are located right between Franktown and Perth on Concession 2A. Do give us a call first though, at 552-2782.

We thank you immensely for your attention and time!
— Dasha & Sebastien



Sebastien Armand & Dasha Tilleul invite you to learn more about their Agapé Gardens undertaking

Organic Material Needed

During the spring of 2013, we will be transforming our landscape using an agroecological technique of piling up wood and stumps, then covering them with soil, to make berms. For this reason, we are in urgent need of old hay, straw (preferably organic), stumps, fallen trees, aged manure, leaves, and fill — the material necessary to build and cover the berms.

Then we will plant the berms with diverse ground cover, plants, bushes and trees (fruit, nut and evergreen). Berms increase available growing space, create microclimates, protect plants, and ensure their survival and growth. A diversified, well-established root systems of plants will preserve the structure of berms, encourage the availability of moisture, and help create a beneficial envi-

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Learning in Almonte

Two new courses starting in March:

Lee Harris: The Magic of Music
An examination of the various types of emotional impact we encounter when listening to different kinds of music
Tuesdays, starting March 19

Eric Weichel: The History of Ancient Egypt
Exploring new perspectives on this fascinating ancient civilization
Thursdays, starting March 21

Both courses run from 1:30-3:30 for six weeks in the Almonte Public Library Classroom.

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To register contact Don Wiles at 256-4376 or don_wiles@carleton.ca

Forty Years at Fortune Farms

In 1972, Ruth and I were living in Kanata with our five young children. We were making maple syrup for fun at a borrowed maple bush and it was a wonderful experience for our children, as they and their friends all participated. We decided to get serious about the maple business and were fortunate to purchase an operating and long standing mature maple bush from Alice and Neil MacIntosh. Our first year of operation was 1973 — forty years ago. The

MacIntoshes were known for the quality of their syrup and we continued to supply syrup to their customers.

We started with a small number of taps, as we were only able to come on weekends and holidays. We were able to arrange for a neighbour, Bert Thompson, to boil for us and we gradually expanded our operation. We also found that the syrup producers are a close-knit group ready to share experience and advice. Marion Paul in particular, from the well-known Lanark Paul family, helped us in the early years, as she has done for many other producers.

The first major improvement was the installation of Hydro, which permitted us to have good lighting in the camp and to install a vacuum system on our pipelines. With this system, we collected as much sap from 1000 taps as we had previously done with 1800 taps. This

greatly reduced the work involved in washing and re-hanging the pipelines each year. As the children got older and began to develop rural roots they were even more helpful. One son, Jamie, and his wife Sherry, operated the bush while Ruth and I spent six years in Edmonton on a work assignment. In 1990 our evaporator needed to be replaced and we decided to undertake major improvements, with a new camp and new equipment. In 2006 we added a reverse osmosis system which greatly improved our efficiency. It piqued the curiosity of our customers, who feared that it might change the maple syrup flavour. Fortunately it did not.

In 1997 a small tornado blew down a section of our bush and, in January 1998, the ice storm did further damage to the trees and destroyed the pipeline system. With help from friends and neighbours we were able to rebuild the system, tap the undamaged trees, and produce syrup that spring. Later that year, to replace the missing taps, we purchased a second maple bush near Clayton. Our trees have slowly recovered from the ice storm and, with the new property, we now have more than 7000 taps.

In October 2006, our camp burned down due to a faulty propane torch. Once again, with the help of friends and neighbours, we were able to rebuild the camp, install new equipment and produce syrup the following spring. The way the rural community steps in to help those in need is truly remarkable, and we are very grateful for all the help we have received over the years.

Early on, we found that our friends in Kanata were very interested in our maple syrup venture and in visiting the sugar bush every year for a taste of fresh syrup. Our camp has always been open to visitors, and in 1997 the Kettle Boys and Shanty Men set up shop to provide a unique maple experience. Our maple bush and woodlot are part of the Eastern Ontario Model Forest demonstration network, and we have had the opportunity to compare our forestry activities with many international visitors.

So why do we do this? It's a family affair — not only our immediate family, but the extended family of friends who visit each year. Over our forty years of operation, our circle of friends has spread far and wide. Grandchildren of people who we first met in the 1970s, are now appearing at the camp. Of course our own family, which also now involves grandchildren, is the cornerstone of the operation. We hope it will continue for many future generations.

— Ray Fortune



Who They Are

Fortune Farms — Ray and Ruth Fortune and family
2442 Wolfgrove Road, Mississippi Mills 256-5216
<info@fortunefarms.ca>, <fortunefarms.ca>

What They Offer

Pure maple syrup, maple butter, maple sugar candy and maple fudge, taffy-on-snow; sugar bush walks and interpretive trails; visits with the Shanty Men and the Kettle Boys on weekends during sugaring off season

Pancakes with Maple Syrup

Pancakes with butter and maple syrup are the quintessential maple experience. Try this Fortune Family Favourite Pancake Recipe (serves 4):

- 1 cup unbleached white all-purpose flour
- ½ cup whole wheat flour
- ¼ cup corn meal
- ¼ cup quick cooking oatmeal
- 2 tablespoons baking powder
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 tablespoons unflavoured oil (not olive)
- 1½ to 2 cups milk

For fluffy pancakes, use a lumpy batter and a hot griddle.



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451 Ottawa St. Almonte / 613.256.5960 / equator.ca

Food Charter Kick-Off

Do you live in Leeds, Grenville or Lanark Counties? Are you concerned about the food system in our community? If so, you are invited to the Lanark-Leeds-Grenville Food Charter kick off meeting on Monday, March 4, from 1:30 to 3:30PM, at the LLG District Health Unit (Room A and B) at 25 Johnston Street in Smiths Falls.

A Food Charter is a statement of values, principles and

priorities that support and encourage the creation of a just and sustainable food system for our community. It is a guide to fostering the development of municipal food-related planning, policy and program development that is critical to ensuring a healthy food system for all.

Your vision can help create this powerful tool. It is an opportunity to provide your

opinions and views on food and sustainable farming issues, as well as nutrition and more. Come to the Food Charter meeting and let your voice be heard!

To register for the free Information Session go to <foodcharterlgl.eventbrite.com>, contact Lynda at 345-5685x2215 or <lynda.earl@healthunit.org>. Light refreshments will be provided.

Humm Bits

Calling Young Voices!

Are you between the ages of 8 and 13 and do you love to sing? The **Kids Town Singers** choir will begin rehearsals at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Bridge Street in Carleton Place on Monday, April 8, from 6 to 8PM. Monday rehearsals will continue until the end of June, when the group will perform an evening concert for friends and family. Registration is \$40 per singer, with a family maximum of \$100. Come out to share your voice and be part of a great group. No experience necessary. To register or for additional details, email <ktschoir@gmail.com>.

Teens Needed for New Drama Club

Hi, my name is Davie Hartley. I have a Masters of Education (Counselling) and a long history in youth community development work. I have started an adult-teen partnership to provide teens the opportunity to acquire the skills and support needed to start their own teen-centred theatre and youth development program in Almonte.

The program is currently called the **Teen Drama Club**, but it will be known by this name only until the teens implement a community naming project. The community naming project will include giving students (and other teens) an opportunity to send in their ideas for naming the drama club. Once the students have provided their ideas, the names will be collected by and the drama club will select an official name for the group.

It is anticipated that the club will facilitate the transfer of essential theatre skills from professionals to teen club members, in areas such as script writing, lighting, acting and production. The plan is that the teens, with the leadership of adults, will eventually take the play on tour.

The program is being offered free of cost, as all expenses are being covered by donations and in-kind assistance, with folks like Lily Pond Puppets offering a shadow puppet workshop, J.B. Arts offering a canvas-painting workshop, and S.M. Art/Studio 9 offering rehearsal space (and a backdrop-painting workshop).

The club is into its fourth week — rehearsals will start soon and we are still three actors short. So if you or someone who you know has an interest in acting, stage design and theatre production, please contact: Davie Hartley at <hartley.davie43@gmail.com> or 256-7504.

Adult Learning and Training

The Adult Learning and Training Centre is a non-profit, community-based learning and training centre. They offer Lanark County and Smiths Falls adults, free of charge, the opportunity to upgrade their literacy and basic skills for independence. They can also further their education and job readiness, by learning skills relating to computers and cash registers. Tutors work with learners individually or in small groups. To volunteer as a tutor or to register as a learner, contact 284-2121, Monday to Friday, 9AM to 3PM.

Pancake Breakfast at Union Hall

Once again, the folks at Union Hall are celebrating the coming of spring with a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 24. Home-made breakfasts will be served from 8AM until noon. Diners will enjoy pancakes, sausages or ham and beans or blueberries, with lashings of butter and Fortune Farms maple syrup, accompanied by fruit juice, coffee or tea, all at a modest price. Gluten-free pancakes are available on request.

Union Hall, located at the corner of Wolf Grove and Tatlock Roads, west of Almonte, was constructed in 1857 and has been used continuously since that time. The hall is owned and maintained by the local community. The Town of Mississippi Mills provides a modest grant in recognition of the hall's importance to residents.

Each year, the hall kicks off the season with the Pancake Breakfast, followed by the annual Blueberry Tea in August and the hugely popular Talent Show/Potluck Dinner in October. Recently, Union Hall has drawn crowds for live music, featuring local musicians, in a coffeehouse atmosphere. Any profits from these events go directly to the maintenance of the hall.

Union Hall is an 8km drive west of Almonte through scenic maple bush along Wolf Grove Road. Bring family and friends — this is the ideal treat for visitors from out of town. After breakfast, why not take a tour of local sugar bushes to learn more about the production of maple syrup?

Menopausal Woman of the Corn

Spring has Sprung and So Have the Chin Hairs

Yesterday at Home Hardware I bought some pumpkin seeds and also decided to pick up a pair of sunglasses, anticipating the beginning of spring. As I glanced at my reflection in the tiny mirror, there was something else staring back at me beside my aging face. There at the very edge of my chin were two new

me a long albino hair that I swear measured at least five inches in length. I was aghast and then quickly asked him if there were any more. He laughed and told me that in the sunlight I looked like I needed a real good shave.

Since when did my face start resembling a peach? Should I suddenly be sold along with veggies on a roadside stand or become part of a cobbler? Upset with my peach fuzz status, I started to pluck like a maniac and refused to call them "stray eyebrows" as I once did.

The radical hairs infuriate me so much that I now glare in the bathroom mirror every morning, as they seem to grow overnight at warp speed. I keep not one, but two pairs of tweezers by the

by Linda Seccaspina

small chin hairs that had sprung up overnight. I shook in horror, because getting rid of them has now become an important daily ritual for me. Things have not gotten any better these past few months and I have become so obsessed with unneeded body hair that I should be committed.

The first time I noticed strange hair docking on my "port" was when I drove to Kingston, Ontario, with my youngest son, Perry. I caught him looking at me from the corner of my eye and I asked him what was wrong. He said, "Mum, do you know you have a long hair growing under your chin?"

I did not believe him and told him to pull it out as a joke. He reached over, tugged, and showed

I have even been known to liberate the odd pair of tweezers from a bathroom not belonging to me...

bathroom sink, and if I spot even the smallest of growths I am immediately at war with them. If I lost a pair of tweezers I think I would go completely ballistic. I have even been known to liberate the odd pair of tweezers from a bathroom not belonging to me. It is simply about having the perfect tool to accomplish the deed.

My grandmother used to have two chin hairs that grew for

months until she plucked them just before Christmas. Sometimes at dinner I would have a hard time concentrating on small talk as I could not help watching the progress of those two particular black hairs. They had a mind of their own and would swirl this way or that depending on the kitchen temperature.

First bright sunny day in December, she would go outside and set my grandfather's round shaving mirror on top of an overturned garbage pail. There in full sunlight with Christmas carols blasting from the kitchen radio she would pluck them out. I learned from her that only a place that allows full sunlight will reveal the true horror of what's actually growing on your

face. As I age, hair elsewhere is disappearing — only three lone hairs have sprouted on my legs this year!

Thankfully, my armpit hair no longer grows at "hippie speed", and I am missing small patches of hair from other places. There has to be something to stop these annoying things growing besides expensive electrolysis. Maybe the next time I go to Home Hardware they will have more spring gardening things like a new weed killer that might solve my chin hair problem.

A Sure Sign of Spring



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Saturday,
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10AM to 3PM

at
St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church
39 Bridge Street,
Carleton Place

For more info, contact:
Patricia Stewart
613 256-5625

This is a
fundraising event
for St. Andrew's

Sage Age Live on Stage

Now in its 21st year, Lanark County's very own **Sage Age Improv Theatre** launches its spring season on March 21 at Almonte's St. Paul's Anglican Church with a performance that celebrates the lighter side of growing old — if you can't beat it, you might as well laugh at it!

Since 1992, Sage Age Improv has entertained and brightened the lives of audiences in many area retirement homes and lunch clubs. And this time they are donating the proceeds of their performance to St. Paul's 150th Anniversary year.

The talented troupe of a dozen or so don't-ask-don't-tell-aged seniors have taken their show on the road as far afield as Halifax (that's Nova Scotia, not England!) in their quest to inject a bit (a lot!) of humour into the sometimes worrying business of growing old. Closer to home, they have rocked audiences from Renfrew and Richmond to Ottawa and Almonte. "You won't have to travel to New York, Paris or London to see us perform," says cast member and retired Judge Jim Hugessen, "but by the end of the year the west coast of Canada might be a possibility."

The show itself features no scripts, no fixed roles, just spontaneity, verve and energy. No props or sets, just seniors being themselves. The show varies depending on the audience, from strictly entertainment to serious education, but all deliver a message that seniors are not to be taken lightly!

The lively hour-long show of short skits and songs is based on the cast's own life experiences or on audience suggestions. Although they rehearse the situations, everything is unscripted, leading to surprises every time they are performed. Each show is tailored to the particular audience, making it informative and fun for all. No situation is too delicate to handle, from grandchildren or grieving, to internet dating and driving.

"What did the aging actress say to the Bishop?" find out this (or not!) and many more spurious figs of fun on March 21! The curtain rises at 7:30PM, with tickets now on sale at the Church office (70 Clyde Street, 256-1771), The Hub (118 Mill Street, 256-5225) or at the door — at \$20, they're a real steal, and include post-performance refreshments with the cast. For more details, visit <sageage.ca>.

Lynn and Keith get "Up Close and Personal"

Juno Award-winners Lynn Miles and Keith Glass will appear together at an Up Close and Personal show in Carleton Place on April 6. It promises to be a special night where one of Canada's finest singer/songwriters will be joined by one of the country's finest musicians.

The two will perform at the Town Hall Auditorium as part of the latest installment of Carleton Place in Concert's Up Close and Personal Concert Series. In 2012, the series featured Garnet Rogers, Murray McLauchlan and Valdy, in what has rapidly become a very popular showcase format for performers and audiences alike.

Lynn Miles has seen her career take her from Ottawa to Los Angeles and back again, with stops along the way in Austin and Nashville. Her sweet, sorrowful and melodic songs tug at the heart, leaving one to wonder just whose heart is affected the most — the listener's or hers?

With titles such as *You Don't Love Me Anymore*, *Whisky*, *Loneliness*, *Long Time Coming* and *The Venus Motel*, she captures beautifully the essence of human longing and expression. Sometimes she does it all with a bit of a sweet/sarcastic twist, as in the lyrics of *Hockey Night in Canada* where she laments, "It's hockey night in Canada, and there's a blue glow in every window, I wish I could ride my bicycle, but the streets are full of snow."

Keith Glass is best known as a member of the successful country band Prairie Oyster. Inside



music circles he is highly regarded and respected too as an excellent guitarist and record producer. Prairie Oyster recently recorded their long-awaited new album at the Glass household in Perth, where Keith says "everyone just basically moved in for a while until the record was completed."

The combination of Miles's soft voice and guitar touch, along with Glass's superb guitar licks, will result in an incredible experience — one that a venue like the Town Hall Auditorium was meant for.

Tickets for the show are \$30 each, with a limited number of \$50 VIP Passes (pre-show meet & greet, and admission). They can be picked up in Carleton Place at Temptations, SRC Music, and the Chamber of Commerce office, and in Perth at Burns Jewellers. For more information, call 257-4970 or email <lyleproductions@gmail.com>. Showtime is 8PM.

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 \$25 ADVANCE TIX now available at Burns Jewellers - Perth • SRC Music - Carleton Place & online at
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TRAVELLING STEAM SHOW
 If you're missing out on Fred Eaglesmith, you're really missing out: since he left the family farm in his teens and struck out on his troubadour's path, he's been prolific and sharp, and the former has rarely seemed to effect the latter. - *The New Yorker*



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Peter Karp and Sue Foley in Perth & Almonte

On the heels of their second CD release, *Beyond the Crossroads*, and a nine-month tour that brought them across the U.S., Canada and Europe, Peter Karp and Sue Foley will be visiting Perth and Almonte. With their band, they will preview *High Spirit Blues*.

High Spirit Blues is a show that will be featured in churches, town halls and festivals across America, and will bring together elements of blues and roots music with high-energy spirituals. "Our aim is to uplift people," says Foley. "We want everyone walking out feeling better than when they came in."

"We're writing songs with themes in mind: positivity, renewal, absolution," Karp adds. "These times are trying — in the heart and in the streets. Time to fire up the amps and blow heat."

In a live concert review, *Goldmine Magazine* said, "When Peter Karp and Sue Foley came to town and plugged in, they blew the roof off the joint. The chemistry between the two is palpable. Delaney and Bonnie? Conway and Loretta? More like Susan Tedeschi and Derek Trucks. The whole point is that, while onstage, they're the equal, in their chosen Americana genre, of anybody. It's magic."

Peter Karp is a gifted, award-winning singer/songwriter and American troubadour. He's a master songsmith, accomplished guitarist and pianist who repeatedly transfixed audiences across the U.S., Canada and Europe. Critics compare his songwriting to John Hiatt and John Prine, with impressive guitar and slide licks infused by his love

of Albert King and Elmore James. Karp personifies the amorphous Americana sound, seamlessly blending roots music with a high sense of entertainment.

Sue Foley, from Ottawa, is considered to be one of the finest blues/roots artists working today. At 16, she embarked on her professional career. By 21, she was living in Austin, Texas, and recording for legendary blues label Antone's Records. Throughout the '90s she took to the road with her paisley Telecaster and honed her craft, working and sharing the stage with such artists as BB King, Buddy Guy, Lucinda Williams and Tom Petty. In 2000, after moving back to Canada, Sue won a prestigious Juno award and a record-breaking seventeen Maple Blues awards.

See Peter Karp and Sue Foley, with their band, on March 22 at St. Paul's United Church in Perth (25 Gore Street West) and on March 23 at the Almonte Old Town Hall (14 Bridge Street). Buy your tickets for the Perth show at Tickets Please <ticketsplease.ca> and for the Almonte show at Mississippi Mills Musicworks <mmmusicworks.ca>.

Blues Guitar Workshop!

As an added attraction, Peter Karp and Sue Foley will provide a Blues Guitar Workshop to guitar players on each afternoon of their concerts. In 2012, the two started The School of American Blues and Roots Music — an online music school where they teach students the finer points of playing traditional Americana music. The school's motto, "Learn from the pros who were taught by the masters" couldn't be more true, as Karp and Foley have played and learned from some of the best blues and roots heroes, many of whom have since passed away. Their school teaches an array of styles, from Mississippi slide guitar to Texas blues, as well as songwriting, boogie-woogie piano, and professional artist mentoring. Come and enjoy an hour of guitar tips and tricks and bring your playing to a new level! You can find further information at <karpfoley.com>.



Peter Karp and Sue Foley bring their "High Spirit Blues" to Perth and Almonte on March 22 and 23. In each town, they will also be giving a blues guitar workshop on the afternoon of their show.

Treasa Levasseur & The Daily Special



Perth Performing Arts Committee



Treasa Levasseur & The Daily Special
Friday, March 22, 2013

Sagapool



Sagapool
Friday, April 12, 2013

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in Mississippi Mills March 19, 2013
5:30 - 7:00PM

ALMONTE OLD TOWN HALL

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The Mississippi Mills Beautification Committee is selling 3 year-old "transplants" (Norway Spruce, Fraser Fir or Douglas Fir) for only \$2 each.

Call Bonnie at 256-1077 x 21 by April 18 to order.

Visit the Maplelope at
www.maplelope.ca



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The Share Economy

We arrived in Montreal for a weekend getaway during a horrible snowstorm. The driving had been terrible and the two-and-a-half hour trip turned into a five-hour ordeal. When we finally arrived at our destination we stumbled out of the car and were greeted by our smiling host, Jeff. He took us to our rooms, showed us the space and amenities, left us the keys and away he went. And just like that, we became part of the internet-enabled, micropreneurial new wave of business that has been dubbed "the share economy".

You see, we weren't staying at a traditional hotel, inn, or B&B. We had arranged to rent Jeff's very cool apartment through a broker website called Airbnb. For a small fee, Airbnb lets people "list, discover, and book unique accommodations around the world." Jeff had posted some great photos and a charming listing for a two-bedroom apartment in the heart of the Plateau Mont Royal. I liked the listing and the reviews left by previous guests; saw that it was available for the weekend, and clicked "book it". Airbnb acted as the mediator for the booking, holding the security deposit, sending me reminders as the date for the weekend away approached, handling the payment to Jeff, and finally encouraging me to rate my stay. It was terrifically easy and pleasant.

Get On (Room and) Board

"Great," you say, "sounds like you had a fun weekend. Why do I care?" Good question.

First of all, after trying Airbnb once and spending way too much time browsing their website, I'm a big fan and I think more people should know about it. The site is gorgeous and even a few minutes of poking around will have you planning a weekend getaway or a longer vacation to some hidden gem of a destination.

Then there is the local angle. According to a recent study in San Francisco, 72% of Airbnb properties lie outside the area where most hotels are concentrated. More than 90% of Airbnb guests to San Francisco prefer to stay in neighbourhoods that are



From snow homes to more traditional digs, Airbnb offers an incredible variety of accommodations and a "micropreneurial" approach to business

"off the beaten track." Over 60% of guest-spending takes place in the neighbourhoods in which the guest is staying. According to Brian Chesky, the CEO: "Airbnb represents a new form of travel. This study shows that [we] are having a huge positive impact — not just on the lives of our guests and hosts, but also on the local neighbourhoods they visit and live in." That was certainly our experience in Montreal.

Be Our Guest

Perhaps I am biased, but I think that the small towns that are served by *theHumm* are fascinating places, full of interesting people, businesses and attractions. There are folks out there who would love to discover all that we have to offer, and Airbnb might be one venue to allow them to do that. A quick search on the site reveals that there are about half a dozen Airbnb hosts in this area with properties ranging from private rooms in an artist's English cottage-style home or a historic gothic stone church, one floor of a ski lodge on Mount Pakenham, to a whole cottage on a private island in Big Rideau Lake. I think there could and should be more.

My final reason for wanting to get more people hooked into Airbnb is a recurring theme here at *theHumm*: small is good. The antidote to impersonal, big box consumerism is small interpersonal experiences. Airbnb leverages the power of the internet to facilitate real-world experiences that really make people feel connected.

So, take a few minutes, browse the site. Maybe you'll book a room or a house (or a cave!). Maybe you'll be inspired to list an extra space that you have in your home and act as a host, introducing guests to all of the fun, distinctive and wonderful experiences this area has to offer.

— Rob Riendeau



Two Songbirds at MERA

The next concert in Music At MERA's ongoing program of musical events will feature two of North America's most acclaimed singer-songwriters. PEI's **Catherine MacLellan** and North Carolina's **Jonathan Byrd** will appear at MERA Schoolhouse in McDonalds Corners on Saturday, March 9, at 8PM.

Matching pure and ethereal vocals with poetic lyrics and uncompromising songwriting craft, Catherine MacLellan has become one of the most celebrated new singer-songwriters in Canada, and around the world.

And although Jonathan Byrd wears a cowboy hat, hails from North Carolina and regularly tops "Americana" record charts in the U.S., his latest CD, *Cackalack*, was recorded in Toronto by Ken Whitely and is garnering exceptional reviews.

Tickets for this show are \$20 in advance and \$24 at the door. Advance tickets are available from Tickets Please at 39 Foster Street in Perth, at 485-6434 or at <ticket-splease.ca>. For more information, email <shakeyacres@hotmail.com> or phone 268-2376.

The Unbreakable Magic of Keith Glass

After decades of awards, acclaim and commercial success, there's still a lot of great music left in Keith Glass, Canada's magic man of the guitar. The proof? An exciting new solo album due out this spring. And if you'd like a preview of what this legendary Canadian guitarist/songwriter has to say musically, head for Perth on Saturday, March 23. That's the night Keith brings his awesome guitar virtuosity to the stage of Perth's Studio Theatre in the second concert of the 2013 **Songs From The Valley** series.

Keith is a seven-time Canadian Country Guitar Picker of the Year, a member of the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame, and a founding member of the multi Juno and CCMA award-winning roots/country band Prairie Oyster. As if that's not enough for one career, he's also a renowned record producer who has helped to craft recording projects with the likes of Brock Zeman, Erin Driscoll, Trevor Alguire, Missy Burgess, Brea Lawrenson, Rebekka Paige, and many other Eastern Ontario artists. Now Keith is set to launch his own new solo CD, and audiences at the Studio Theatre can be sure that the March 23rd performance will showcase many of the cuts from this much-anticipated new record.

Now in its third hit year, Songs From The Valley is a collaboration between the Stewart Park Festival and the Studio Theatre, and the series has quickly become a much-anticipated rite of spring for music lovers. The third and final concert in the 2013 series hits the stage of the Studio Theatre on May 4 with a foot stompin' kitchen party hosted by **Smokey Rose and Friends** (Darlene Thibault, Lee Hodgkinson, Ed Ashton), with some outstanding special guests. Almonte's Brad Scott will bring along his pickin' prowess, and the amazing young Henry Norwood will also share the stage, along with veterans Harry Adrain, Judi Moffat and Barry Munroe.

Tickets for Songs From the Valley 2013 are just \$25 per show and available from any Stewart Park Festival Board Member for cash or cheque (please contact Sue at 267-7902) or by debit or credit card from Tickets Please at 39 Foster Street in Perth (485-6434).

Mark your calendar for March 23 so as not to miss Keith Glass and musical guests at 8PM at the Studio Theatre, 63 Gore Street East in Perth. For further details, visit <studiotheatreperth.com>.

Olde Time and Good Time Arts at Temple's

Temple's Sugar Bush is a family-owned and run maple sugar and syrup operation. Nestled in the woods just north of Highway 7, in a village called Ferguson's Falls, visitors will find two beautiful and impressive post and beam buildings — one the sugar camp and the other the restaurant.

During "sugaring" season families, neighbours, adventuresome foodies and tour groups alike come to Temple's to sample the wonderful (and extensive) menu, enjoy the enthusiastic and friendly service, see how maple syrup is made, have a walk on the self-guided trail through the bush, and generally welcome the spring!

This year, Temple's is thrilled to be offering entertainment, face painting and artisanal workshops throughout the season. They will feature some olde-time arts (weaving with the MERA weavers on Saturday, March 16), some olde-time music with The Mississippi Jug Stompers on March 30, ice carving on April 6, and face painting on March 23 and April 20. These special events are free to all guests. Temple's plans on adding even more

activities to the calendar, and the curious can keep up-to-date on their Facebook page!

Temple's restaurant is open seven days a week from March 2 until April 21, weekdays 9AM until 2PM, weekends 9AM until 4PM. It is located at 1700 Ferguson's Falls Road in Lanark, and you can reach them at 253-7000, and get further information at <templessugarbush.ca>.



The Mississippi Jug Stompers (above) will bring some olde-time toe-tapping music to Temple's Sugar Bush on March 30

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Fred Eaglesmith's Steam Show Travels to Perth

Juno winner and Port Dover native Fred Eaglesmith has built his career on the rural character of Ontario. For thirty-five years he has toured towns and cities across the continent, singing about the people and places of this province. In doing so, he has earned international accolades, gold records, a spot on David Letterman, and songs covered by recording stars such as Miranda Lambert and Toby Keith. Now Eaglesmith says the time has come to bring his show back home to where it truly belongs. The upcoming concert at the Perth Civitan Club Hall on Sunday, March 17, is just one of the local shows he has planned for the spring of 2013.

"For years I have been out on the road. I have been playing to people all over the world, and for those few weeks a year when I was able to get home from wherever I was, I would drive past a community hall somewhere in Ontario and think: 'Why not play these halls? Why not play for these people?'" he explains.

At the same time, community members have been asking themselves similar questions: how can we fill our halls and how can we reach out and encourage new people to get involved? Knowing they share similar goals, and with a desire to provide a special night out — complete with fancy stage costumes and a top hat — Eaglesmith and his team have been actively enlisting community halls and their members to host shows.

Keith White of the Legion in Angus is one of the people who agreed to help put together a show. "Our Legion needs people in it more than ever," says White, "and having Fred Eaglesmith



Catch the legendary Fred Eaglesmith in the intimate setting of the Perth Civitan Hall on Sunday, March 17

play last December brought out an enthusiastic crowd, many of whom had never been to a show in a small hall before. The history, warmth and character of the hall provide a great venue for live entertainment, and we know that that show provided an opportunity to raise awareness and contributed to the organization's ability to continue their work."

Eaglesmith also thinks the smaller halls are the ideal venue for his Travelling Steam Show. The songs he writes and performs, with the help of his band — which includes Texas knock out Tif Ginn as opener and back up vocalist, bassist Justine Fischer, Matty Simpson on guitar, mandolinist Mike Zinger and drummer Kori Heppner — seem particularly poignant and appro-

appropriate in these places, because they are genuinely tied to the lives, labours, trials, tribulations and triumphs of the everyday people who may visit them.

"I have played so many venues I can't even count them all, but I can tell you, the best shows are the ones where I pull up and share a night with folks like those I meet at Ontario's community halls. It is not what people think the music business is — but I say it is what the music business should be. A good night — in a good place. I just can't wait for these shows."

Catch Fred in Perth on Sunday, March 17, at the Civitan Hall. The show starts at 8PM. Tickets are available now at <fredeaglesmith.com> for \$25. Tickets at the door are \$30.

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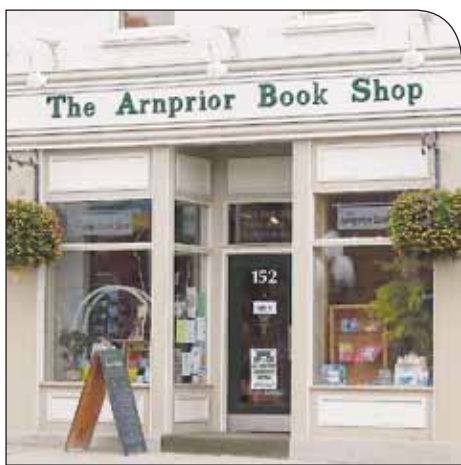
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Arnprior Book Shop Celebrates 20 Years

Manhattan has The Strand, Paris has Shakespeare and Company, and one fortunate Ottawa Valley town has The Arnprior Book Shop, a local institution celebrating two decades of bookselling. What magic is at work behind the doors of an independent shop where the trade in books is still going strong?

In 1993, Gwen Storie's love of books and her desire to run her own business led to the creation of The Arnprior Book Shop. "I had romantic visions of entering the time-honored profession of bookselling, not really knowing what I was getting into. It's been wonderful," she says, before waxing poetic about the books and customers who have filled her days.

Nestled along Arnprior's main street between Bonnie Jane's Scones and The Gallery Gift Shop, this charming one-and-a-half storey mecca of books has become the unofficial gathering place for story lovers



and those with stories to tell. The shop is a literary water-cooler where folks discuss old favourites and hot-off-the press sensations; it's a fresh and welcoming place for children's story time, and an intimate and sympathetic setting for local artists and those of national acclaim who come to share their works.

Storie, along with booksellers Debbie Gahan and Pam Mitchell who have been with the shop from the start, all have an appreciation for books that runs deep. Their recommendations are impeccable and the shop's offerings are as irresistible as the coffee and scones served in the connecting shop.

It takes a dedicated soul to carry the bibliophile torch these days, but Storie is meeting the challenges of today's market with finesse. "My main attraction is the fact that I am still an old-fashioned bookstore," she says. Trends and business practices have changed rapidly since the days when Storie poured over publishing directories and bestseller lists. Although the shop has diversified organically over the years, reflecting changes in the community, it has retained the small and personal nature that gives it an edge over the large box stores and online e-tailers. Storie is somewhat dismayed over giving up bookshelf space for gifts, but she does what is necessary to survive the vagaries of this marketplace.

As with any local business, the shop's strength lies in the value it adds to its community. Storie, who has never thought of her store as a retail outlet, has created a vibrant shop that is an integral part of the

downtown landscape, providing space for book lovers, new moms, seniors, and those in want of a place to linger. It is a space to engage in face-to-face communication about everything from books to the local hockey team or the weather. And now, twenty years

along, The Arnprior Book Shop is providing a place for a new generation of book lovers to find inspiration and sustenance for the soul. "It's always exciting to share new books with children whose parents came by the shop when they were young," says bookseller Gahan.

What Storie has enjoyed most over the last twenty years "would be in equal measure: the books themselves as they come in the door, the people that I have worked with (they are treasures themselves), of course the customers, and once again, the books themselves," she says with a gentle wit that punctuates her love of the product she shares.

"I feel very grateful and blessed to have been a part of this business. And if in a small way I have been a part of the magical alchemy of people and chatting and books and ideas and community then I believe that

I have accomplished what I set out to do." And we are all thankful for that, because, to take some liberties with a Cicero quote, a community without books is like a body without a soul.

— Robynne Eagan

The town of Arnprior is planning to celebrate Books, Reading and the Arts in April, in conjunction with The Arnprior Book Shop's 20th Anniversary. Watch for details of these events:

- "Becoming Water" with climatologist Mike Demuth who will present his new book. April 5, 6:30PM at the Arnprior Book Shop.
- Nancy Richler (*Imposter Bride*) and Tanis Rideout (*Above All Things*) will read and answer questions about their critically acclaimed books. April 12, 6:30PM at the Arnprior Book Shop.
- Mary Jane Maffini and Barbara Fradkin will read from their works and entertain with their stories and wit. April 21 at the Arnprior Book Shop.
- Writer's Workshop with author and writing workshop facilitator Susan Jennings. April 27 at the Arnprior Book Shop.
- "Evolution of Blues Guitar" a presentation and Q and A with Jack De Keyzer. April 7 at the Arnprior Public Library.
- "Beer and Books" Book Talk with bookseller Gwen Storie and librarian Karen Deluca on hand to celebrate books and micro-breweries. April 9 at Our Place in the Prior (tentative)
- "The Art of Confronting a Killer", with award-winning documentary filmmaker David Ridgen. April 13 or 14 at the Arnprior Public Library.
- "Tulip Time": Arnprior Day Painters open their exhibit in the Art Corridor. April 27 (to remain for the duration of the Tulip Festival in Ottawa).

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The Arts of March

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Peace of Mind Creations and Friends presents Tannis Slimmon in concert with special guest Jennifer Noxon on March 22 at 7:30PM. Seating is limited to 35, so don't wait too long before reserving yours! You can get your tickets at Peace of Mind's shop in Heritage Court, 7 Mill Street in downtown Almonte, for \$20.

by Miss Cellaneous

There will be complimentary refreshments at intermission, and CDs will be for sale before, during the break, and after the show. Please call 461-7662 or email <peaceofmindcreations@gmail.com> for further information.

Come early — why not book dinner in advance next door at the Mill Street Crepe Company (461-2737) or at one of Almonte's other fine restaurants, such as the Heirloom Café (256-9653), Cafe Postino (256-6098), or The Barley Mow (256-5669)? You can also visit neighbouring shopkeepers while we ready our space for you. Note: The Crepe Company opens at 5PM for dinner; most shops close around 5 or 6PM.

Art off our walls is for sale all the time. Here is your opportunity for a semi-private viewing! Musical art surrounded by visual art — a night to remember!

Maple Run Studio Tour

The first signs of spring are beginning to appear as the birds return, the sap begins to run in Lanark maple trees, and the **Maple Run Studio Tour** gears up for its 11th season. Come take a scenic drive on Saturday, March 23, or Sunday the 24th (10AM to 5PM) to indulge in sweet maple products and to meet local craftspeople and fine artists on this popular self-guided studio tour, taking place in and around picturesque Pakenham.

Tour stops include Fulton's Pancake House and Sugar Bush, and studios featuring glass blowing, fine woodworking, photography, jewellery, pottery, blacksmithing, miniature quilting, woven garments, and paintings in oil, acrylic and watercolour, as well as more one-of-a-kind pieces to be



Jewellery by Joanne Desarmia of Jo Bling Creations, on the Maple Run Studio Tour

discovered. You will find artwork and crafts for yourself, your home, your garden or for gifts. Forgo the big box stores and come out to see artists working in their own studios and in group displays in various locations in and around the village of Pakenham.

No need to pack a lunch — there are several stops along the way where light meals and tasty treats are served. Also, pick up your passport to be stamped at tour stops, in order to be eligible for one of three artist's baskets to be won. If you have your passport stamped from all nine studios, your name will be entered twice for an extra chance to win!

Maps and detailed tour stop descriptions can be picked up at Fulton's Sugar Bush, any tour stop along the way (look for the green maple leaf signs), and the Pakenham General Store. Details can also be found online at <mapleruntour.ca> or by calling 624-2062. You can also follow them on Facebook.



Arts Newsflash!

As of March 1, **Arts Carleton Place** <artscarletonplace.com> is moving out of the Train Station Visitor & Information Centre Gallery & Gift Shop (132 Coleman Street in Carleton Place). Members renewing and new artists wishing to join can pick up, drop off or mail their forms in to Surrounding Memories, 77 Bridge Street, Carleton Place, ON K7C 2V4. Owner Michelle Bedel, an Arts CP member, is graciously helping them out while they are investigating a new location for gallery and office space. Arts CP wishes to thank all of the talented artists who displayed their works and the supporters who purchased the art over the past three years. Stay tuned!

Call for Artists and Artisans

The **Crown and Pumpkin Studio Tour** invites artists and those practising fine crafts to join its 17th anniversary tour. The tour will take place on Thanksgiving weekend, October 12 to 14, in Mississippi Mills. This year the tour wants to expand its range of offerings, and is particularly interested in three-dimensional work and fine crafts, and is also looking to introduce new and innovative work. Applicants are asked to submit at least five examples of recent work, and to include a brief biography and artist's statement. Work is judged on originality of expression and concept, and quality of execution; new types of work will receive particular consideration. Deadline for submissions is May 15. Send application, including electronic images of work, to <barbara.mullally@gmail.com>. For further information, call 256-3647.

Music, Magic and Manors in Perth!

If you've been hibernating for the past few months, there are events springing up all over Perth that may just tempt you into venturing out. So be sure to "bear" these in mind!

PPAC's Spring Offerings

The good folks at the Perth Performing Arts Committee (PPAC) are doing their best to lure you from your lair this spring, by finishing off their 2012-13 season with great shows in March and April.

With her big voice, big sound, and a big brand-new record (entitled *Broad*, for reasons that will become clear to the audience on March 22), **Treasa Levasseur** is the type of old-school dame who can get away with wearing a three-piece suit and hold her own with the gents. Her third full-length album represents both a

return to her roots and a gutsy move into uncharted territory. *Broad* is a remarkable collection of new songs that are sometimes playful, sometimes vulnerable, occasionally in your face — and always sincere and deeply felt. Levasseur's band, The Daily Special, features Champagne James Robertson on guitar, Paul Reddick on harmonica, drummer Brad Hart and bassist Brian Kobayakawa.

And don't forget PPAC's final show of this season — **Sagapool** on April 12. Described as "the great wild North", this six-piece band promises to bring tales of raucous romps and wintry meditations to life on their new eponymous album and corresponding North American tour.

All PPAC shows start at 8PM in the Mason Theatre at Perth & District Collegiate Institute. Tickets are available from Tickets Please — visit <ticket-please.ca>, call 485-6434, or drop in at Jo's Clothes, 39 Foster Street in Perth.



PPAC Presents Treasa Levasseur (above) on March 22, and Sagapool on April 12

Chamber Music in the Manor

For those of you whose musical tastes run more toward the classical side, the Perth Manor Boutique Hotel presents two more concerts in their Chamber Music Series. The first, on March 9 at 7:30PM, features **Gordon Craig**, principal clarinet with the Kingston Symphony, with **Michel Szc-**

zesniak on piano. Their repertoire for this "cross-over concert" includes a mix of classical fare from Malcolm Arnold and Johannes Brahms and lighter selections from Clifford Crawley, Arthur Benjamin, Paul Reade and George Gershwin. Then, on April 14 at 2:30PM, they will present vibraphonist **Greg Runion's** jazz trio. Tickets are \$35 (plus HST), and include a glass of wine and hors d'oeuvres at the post-concert reception with the musicians. For more details, drop in to the Manor at 23 Drummond Street West, or call 264-0050.

Believe in Bourada!

If you don't believe in magic, spend an evening with "thrillusionist" **Michael Bourada** on March 9 and he will definitely change your mind. Forget the tails, top hats and capes; this not your traditional magic show but rather an energized, exciting and hilarious show that includes special effects, lighting and real music from the '80s and '90s. Simply put, it leaves the audience wanting more! His modern look and style definitely adds a different and unique spin to magic and illusion.

Bourada, who is one of Canada's elite magicians and one of magic's brightest rising stars, has taken his show all over Eastern Canada, and recently completed a 27-day, 4-country tour of Europe. He brings his Magic & Illusion show to the Mason Theatre at PDCI on March 9 at 2PM. Tickets are \$16 for kids, \$20 for






Canadian "thrillusionist" Michael Bourada brings his Magic & Illusion show to Perth's Mason Theatre on March 9

adults, and \$65 for a 4-pack, with proceeds going to The Stewart School. They are available in advance from Tickets Please (ticketsplease.ca or 485-6434), or at the door. For more details, check out <bouradamagic.ca>.

— Kris Riendeau

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— Robin

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Funny You Should Write..:

What is This? A Cuban Nightclub?

Disclaimer: please consult your high school art teacher, aesthetician and bylaw officer before heeding any of the following advice. Got a question? Send it to <misswrite@thehummm.com>.

Dear Miss Write,

I hate my job. It's not particularly difficult, and I'm actually very good at what I do, but it's just not fulfilling. I'm bored and I can't help but feel there's something

by Emily Arbour

more out there for me. Thing is, I can't afford to quit my job without another one lined up. I feel stuck. Any advice on what I can do to move forward?

— *Stuck in a Rut*

Dear Stuck,

You took the time to write this letter, so it's a done decision. You have to leave your job. You have to find fulfillment. You get one chance to live this life, and personally, I wouldn't waste another day (ok, month) spending your time feeling like you should be doing something different. But, how to move forward. When making life-changing decisions, I like to start by figuring out the worst-case scenario. In this case the worst case is that you don't find a new one... Am I right? Totally possible. But it probably won't kill you. You might have to take a part-time job while you look for something better. Worse things have happened to better people. And sometimes, it's that desperation for work that gives you the guts to nail the interview. Jump and the net will appear I say! Just do it!

Not a risk taker? We can't all be. So start putting together an exit strategy for leaving your current job. Give yourself an end date to work toward, and not only will you be doing right by your current employer by giving enough notice, you'll be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Spend the time allotted looking for opportunities, saving a little rainy day money, and soul searching. And when the time comes to move on, just trust that the right opportunity will present itself. You just have to be available to it.

Dear Miss Write,

What is your stance on leaving the toilet lid up when you leave the bathroom? I don't mean the seat. We all know that's wrong. I'm talking about the lid. I grew up in a house where when you were done using the facilities, you put the lid down, but the majority of guests who visits our home leave it up. I think it's disgusting. Am I alone on this?

— *Grossed Out*

Dear Grossed Out,

Yuck. What do your guests think your house is? A Cuban nightclub? Is there a smartly-dressed gentleman offering squares of single-ply toilet paper and

dinner mints in exchange for a tip at the door? You tell your guests they're gross. Fact: Leaving the toilet lid up when you flush allows a cloud of bacteria to explode into the air and settle on nearby surfaces. Like the sink. Like your face. I don't actually know how you should properly communicate your desire for a closed lid without being rude. Maybe Pinterest has a good idea for a tole-painted sign you could hang in there. Some spin off the old "If you sprinkle while you tinkle" might do it. "Don't be a clown, put the lid down"... "Germs be hid, shut the lid." That's all I got.

Dear Miss Write,

How do I use Facebook for my business? I don't want to go online all the time but I want to be able use it as a marketing tool. Mostly because I know everyone else is using it and I feel I need to. I have a page now, but not many people "like" it. What can I do to change that?

— *Mystified by Social Media*

Dear Mystified,

As a business owner, Facebook is certainly your friend. At least, it can be if you use it properly. Essentially, it's a secondary website that's a little easier for people to find and has the most current information about your brand. It's a kinder, friendlier, more accessible web presence that allows individuals to connect with your business, as opposed to a static website that doesn't allow for immediate feedback. Those who use it well, use it daily. I know that sounds like a lot, but if you really want to work it, you have to treat it as part of your daily operations and not just some waste of time. It doesn't have to be difficult, or take more than 5 minutes.

A good business page (in my estimation) is made up of two things:

a) Current, frequently updated information. If you're a restaurant, I want to know what the soup of the day is. If you're a nail salon, I want to know when you get a new polish colour in stock. Even if I'm not going to be a customer today, you're reminding me you exist, and successful businesses are the ones that come to mind when people need something.

b) Pictures. Every time you post something, post a picture, video or relevant link. People need something to look at and it builds content on your page.

That's it. By posting things that people are interested in, and encouraging them to share those things with others your "likes" will progressively grow and you'll start getting the hang of it.

— *Emily Arbour is a freelance writer (among other things) who lives and works in Almonte. By no means is she an expert in anything but having an opinion and making things up. You can go ahead and take her advice, but you'd probably do just as well asking Mark Zuckerberg about the merits of MySpace. Only difference is he doesn't have a column in this fine publication.*

Marvelous Predictions for March

Oh my — I've just had such a day! Don't tell my Humm editor, but by February 23 I was still at a loss as to how to craft my March article about Mississippi Mills happenings, so I nipped over to Mill Street for some Mid-Winter Milling and got some well-informed assistance!

by Miss Mills

At my first stop, I visited a delightful lady who read Mayan beans for me. Well, wouldn't you know it, but my beans mysteriously formed themselves into very distinctive-looking M-shaped hoofprints... which can mean only one thing... the return of Maplelope season! Now for those of you who don't recall,

Millions of all ages. But to ensure the continued success of our local Maplelope population, please visit mississippimills.com/trees and order your trees, which can be picked up at the Municipal Offices on Saturday, April 27. I know that seems like a long time from now, but do place your order early because the first 50 orders will receive a free "Maplelope XING" t-shirt (which all the cool kids will soon be wearing). The Chamber has a beautiful array of nursery-grown flowering, shade and fruit trees on offer this year, and they can all be ordered online or by calling 256-7886.

The Town of Mississippi Mills, along with the Beautification Committee, will also be offering 3 year-old "transplants" (Norway Spruce, Fraser Fir or Douglas Fir), available for only

\$2 by calling Bonnie at 256-1077 x21 before April 18. In the meantime, you can check up on the Maplelope by visiting maplelope.ca, by liking him on Facebook, or by tweeting "I saw a Maplelope".

And while we're on a maple theme, don't forget that March is by far

the bestest month to visit area sugar bushes! Whether you go to study the syrup-making process, stock up on maple products, explore the bush or just indulge in taffy-on-snow, you're bound to come away with an even deeper appreciation for Lanark County's liquid gold. You can find most sugar bushes listed at ldmspa.com

— the site of the Lanark & District Maple Syrup Producers Association (LDMSPA). And if you picked up your Humm early in the month, you can nip out to Thompsonstown Maple Products for the LDMSPA **Tapping Out Party!** Starting at 10AM on March 2, with a pancake breakfast, this family event offers fun for all ages. Stay for the official tree tapping by the Claytones at noon, gather around the fire and learn about maple syrup from Kettle Boys, and enjoy horse-drawn sleigh rides, maple taffy, and country music by local musicians. Hiking trails through the sugar bushes offer great views of Clayton Lake. For more information, visit thompsonstownmaple.ca.

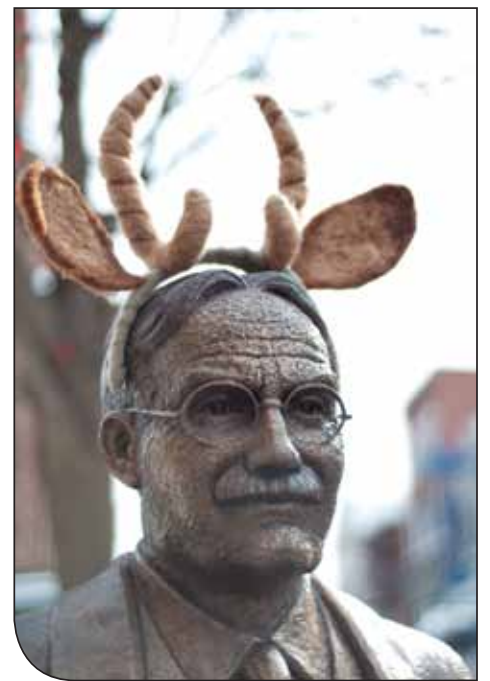
Next on the roster for Mid-Winter Milling was a visit with a psychic. I was a bit concerned when he told me he foresaw some drama in my future, but then I remembered that the Valley Players of Almonte are presenting **an evening of one-act plays and music!** On March 8 and 9 at 8PM, you can visit the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum and enjoy a showcase of local musical talent as well as an eclectic mix of one-act plays.

The music will be provided by local youth, including a winner from the 2012 My Town's Got Talent competition, which was sponsored in part by the Valley Players. The first play to be performed is *The Stronger* by August Strindberg. This was an independent project developed for the Perth Studio Theatre one-act play evening by a few very talented VP veterans. The second play will be *Those Who Can, Do* — which was written by Marianne Mullan and sponsored by the Valley Players for the 2011 Eastern Ontario Drama League One-Act Play Festival. Tickets to this wonderful showcase of local talent are available from Baker Bob's, the Textile

Museum, or at the door for a modest \$10. Refreshments will be available during intermission.

So, then I milled my way further down Mill Street and sat down with an astrologist, who explained that the stars were aligning to favour me with some luck. Well, I would have to say that my favourite type of luck is the delicious kind that comes in pots — and wouldn't you know it — there's a **community pot-luck** coming up in March! This one is being put on in the Almonte Old Town Hall on March 19, from 5:30 to 7PM, and is being organized by The Neighbourhood Tomato Community Gardens. According to Joy Stratford, they are a diverse and committed group, whose interests include seniors, youth, organic farming, health, community building, food security, and town beautification with an edible edge. They include representatives from The Mills, Community Living of Lanark County, public health nurses, and activists in general. TYPS, the local youth centre, is expected to engage their gang as well.

Joy would like to see "absolutely everyone" attend, because they would like everybody to participate in an informal discussion about "all areas in which food and community intersect". This first potluck will allow people to propose ideas, offer skills, suggest small projects, consider monthly projects (such as canning classes, bread-making workshops, and the like). Some organizers are hoping to link people with yards to potential



Hooray! It's Maplelope season in Mississippi Mills!
(www.maplelope.ca)

gardeners who live in apartments, and to link the experience of seniors with the energy of the youth. The Town Hall is wheelchair accessible and the event is free, but participants are asked to bring a culinary contribution.


Joy is already looking ahead to a second pot-luck to take place during Bicycle Month, so if you can't make the one in March but would like to know more, just give her a shout at jstratford@rogers.com but please put the word "Potluck" in the subject line!

Well, there are numerous other marvellous things going on throughout Mississippi Mills in March, so you'd better peruse every page of this issue so as not to miss any. And if you were intrigued by my Mid-winter Milling experiences, drop into Soul Scents at 42 Mill Street where organizer Sara Bazett can tell you more about it!



The Valley Players present music and one-acts at the MVTM on March 8 & 9

the Maplelope was first spotted in the wooded areas of Mississippi Mills last spring — right around sugaring-off time — when he became the beloved be-antlered mascot of the annual **Chamber of Commerce Tree Sale**. Well, I'm predicting that he'll be spotted again this year, thanks to the tree-planting efforts of Mississippi



Indulge in sweet maple products and meet local craftspeople and fine artists in the historic village of Pakenham and surrounding area. Maps and detailed tour destination descriptions can be picked up at **Fulton's Sugar Bush**, any tour stop along the way (look for the green maple leaf sign), **Pakenham General Store**, visit www.mapleruntour.ca or call **613-624-2062** and follow us on Facebook for artists' updates.

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Stop by our website to view the various services we offer!

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Pakenham Home Show, Apr 5-7
 Shades of Roy Orbison, Smiths Falls, Apr 5
 Lynn Miles & Keith Glass, CP, Apr 6
 Shades of Roy Orbison, Perth, Apr 6
 On Stage for Kids, Almonte, Apr 7
 Sagapool (PPAC), Perth, Apr 12
 The Roaring '20s (AiC), Apr 13
 Art Conference/Luncheon, Carp, Apr 13
 Mary Cook Talk, Perth, Apr 13
 The fiVe, Pakenham, Apr 14
 \$38,000 for a Friendly Face, Perth, Apr 18-28
 The Heiress, Smiths Falls, Apr 18-28
 Julian Fauth w/ D. Rotundo, Westport, Apr 19-20
 Missa Gaia, Perth, Apr 21
 Nunsense II, CP, Apr 25-28, May 2-4
 Maria Stuarda, Arnprior, Apr 27
 Smiths Falls Home & Living Show, May 3-5
 Smokey Rose & Friends, Perth, May 4
 Robin Bank\$ Band, Westport, May 17
 Young Awards Gala, Almonte, May 25
 Cantata Singers of Ottawa, Almonte, May 25
 Rigoletto, Arnprior, May 25
 Mississippi Mills Bicycle Month, June
 Antique Show & Sale, Westport, Jun 1-2
 Proof, Perth, Jun 6-16
 Cantores Celestes Women's Choir, Perth, Jun 29
 Celtfest, Almonte, Jul 5-7
 Blooming Arts Tour, Carleton Place, Jul 6
 The Star Spangled Girl, Perth, Jul 12-Aug 4
 Almonte Fair, Jul 19-21
 Stewart Park Festival, Perth, Jul 19-21
 Pollyanna, Smiths Falls, Aug 8-18
 Puppets Up!, Almonte, Aug 10-11
 The Marriage-Go-Round, Perth, Aug 9-Sep 1
 Highland Games, Almonte, Aug 24
 Maberly Fair, Aug 24
 Fibrefest, Almonte, Sep 7-8
 Crown & Pumpkin Studio Tour, Mississippi Mills, Oct 12-14
 Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs, Smiths Falls, Nov 28-Dec 8

- Artemisia Gallery presents works Sculpture AllSorts Show (Mar 16-Apr 7)
- Gallery Perth at Code's Mill presents "Spring into Art" <galleryperth.com>
- Ottawa West Arts Assoc Gallery presents "Metamorphosis" <owaa.ca>
- Pakenham Public Library presents Muriel Yost
- The Almonte Library Corridor Gallery presents Patricia Gordon's mixed media
- Arnprior and District Museum presents ROM Bats of ON exhibit <arnpriormuseum.org>
- Palms Coffee Shop presents Tim Yearington, Richard Skrobecki, and Shawn DeSalvo <palmsonline.ca>
- fieldwork presents installations by Joan Scaglione, Stefan Thompson, Bozica Radjenovic, Chris Grosset <fieldworkproject.com>
- Read's Book Shop presents John Hodgkinson's drawings & paintings (to Mar 16) <readsbookshop.com>
- Brush Strokes presents Strachan Johnston's portraits & landscapes <brushstrokesart.ca>
- Equator Coffee Roasters presents Brian Roche's digital watercolours <equator.ca>
- Carleton Place Library presents Almonte & Area Artists
- Fairview Manor Foyer presents Rod Trider's *The Red Rocket*
- Bridge Street Bistro Restaurant (CP) presents Laurel Cook
- The Mississippi Mills Chambers Gallery presents Mario Cerroni's photography
- Kanata Civic Art Gallery presents "Spring Song" <kanatagallery.ca>

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AAAA Mtg, Almonte Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge Food Charter Mtg, Smiths Falls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brock Zeman, O'Reilly's Pub Open Mic Night, The Downstairs Pub | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drum Circle, Carp Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Jam w/Dave Balfour, O'Reilly's Pub SchoolBOX Fashion Show, Almonte | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acoustic Jam, Alice's Village Cafe Ali McCormick, O'Reilly's Pub Jazz at Bally's, Ballygiblin's Open Mic, Love That Barr |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge PFLAG Carleton Place, CP Sleigh Rides & More, Fulton's | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brock Zeman, O'Reilly's Pub Open Mic Night, The Downstairs Pub Sleigh Rides & More, Fulton's West Carleton Garden Club, Carp Westport Artists' Group, Westport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Bereavement Group, Perth Beginner Ukulele for Kids, Almonte Fred Eaglesmith, Neat Coffee Shop Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Jam w/Dave Balfour, O'Reilly's Pub Sleigh Rides & More, Fulton's | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acoustic Jam, Alice's Village Cafe Ali McCormick, O'Reilly's Pub Fred Eaglesmith, Neat Coffee Shop Open Mic, Love That Barr Sleigh Rides & More, Fulton's |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Quilters' Guild, Almonte Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brock Zeman, O'Reilly's Pub Community Potluck, Almonte Open Mic Night, The Downstairs Pub Relay For Life Team Captain Rally, Almonte | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Jam w/Dave Balfour, O'Reilly's Pub Poetry Reading, Carleton Place | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acoustic Jam, Alice's Village Cafe Ali McCormick, O'Reilly's Pub Flippin' Art Night, Carleton Place Grapes of Wrath, Neat Coffee Shop Mind-Body Healing Talk, Carp Open Mic, Love That Barr Sage Age Improv Theatre, Almonte |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Horticultural Soc., Almonte Carp Celtic Jam, Carp Masonic Lodge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brock Zeman, O'Reilly's Pub Open Mic Night, The Downstairs Pub | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Bereavement Group, CP Arnprior Quilters' Guild, Arnprior Neat SoundCheck, Neat Coffee Shop Open Celtic Jam, Naismith Pub Jam w/Dave Balfour, O'Reilly's Pub | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acoustic Jam, Alice's Village Cafe Ali McCormick, O'Reilly's Pub Open Mic, Love That Barr Spencer Evans Trio, The Cove |

Visual Arts

Almonte & Area Artists' Assoc Mtg, Mar 4, 7:30-9PM. With Mario Cerroni. Almonte Library, 4a-artists.ca. Free

Vernissage, Mar 8, 7-9PM. With Strachan Johnston. Brush Strokes, 129 Bridge St., CP. 253-8088, brushstrokesart.ca.

Meet the Artist, Mar 8, 6:30PM. John Hodgkinson. Read's Book Shop, CP

Westport Artists' Group, Mar 12, 8AM. Grist Mill Artist Retreat, 21 Main St., Westport.

Almonte Quilters' Guild, Mar 18, 7-9PM. Almonte Civitan Hall. 256-5858, empeys@xplornet.com.

Flippin' Art Night, Mar 21, 5-7PM. With Anna House & Peter Wright. Ballygiblin's, 151 Bridge St, CP. 257-2031. Free

Pakenham Maple Run Studio Tour, Mar 23-24, 10AM-5PM. Free, follow green maple leaf signs. 624-2062, mapleruntour.ca.

Arnprior Quilters' Guild, Mar 27, 6:30PM. Christian Education Centre, Arnprior. arnpriordistrictquiltersguild.com

Literature

Book Reading/Genealogical Soc Mtg, Mar 2, 1:30PM. Arlene Stafford-Wilson reads from *Lanark County Chronicle*. Archives Lanark, 1920 Conc 7, Perth

Poetry Reading, Mar 20, 7-9PM. Claudia Coutu Radmore. CP Library, 257-2702.

Theatre

Cactus Flower, Mar 1, 2, 8, 9 at 8PM. Mar 3, 10 at 2PM. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls. smithsfallstheatre.com. \$20/\$18/\$10

Evening of One-Act Plays & Music, Mar 8-9, 8PM. Tickets at Baker Bob's, MVTM, or door. Textile Museum, Almonte. valleyplayers.ca. \$10

Magic & Illusion, Mar 9, 2PM. Thrillusionist Michael Bourada. Proceeds to Stewart School. \$20/\$16, \$65 for 4. PDCI, Perth

LIPS Poetry Slam, Mar 15, 7PM. With Maggie Ulysses. Thirsty Moose, CP. lanarklips@hotmail.com. \$5

Sage Age Improv Theatre, Mar 21, 7:30PM. St. Paul's Anglican Church, Almonte. 256-1771, sageage.ca. \$20

Zero Dark Thirty, Mar 22 & 23, 7:30PM. The Station Theatre, Smiths Falls.

Live At The Met: Aida, Mar 30, 1PM. O'Brien Theatre, 147 John St. N., Arnprior. 622-7682, obrientheatre.com.

Spiritual Cinema Circle, Mar 31, 2PM. McMartin House, Perth. 267-4819, fp@superaje.com., opt. donation

Youth

Annie Jr., Mar 1 at 7PM; Mar 2 at 2PM. Mudds Youth Theatre. Tickets at 132 Coleman St., CP. CP Town Hall. 257-1976. \$10

Almonte in Concert Music Club, Mar 3, 12:30PM. With Christa Lowry, trumpet. Almonte Old Town Hall, 256-5267

Beginner Ukulele Workshop for Kids, Mar 13, 1PM. Musicworks, Almonte. 256-7529, mmmusicworks.ca. \$25

Meet Curious George, Mar 16 (10:30AM, 12:30PM, 3:30PM), Mar 17 (2PM). Mill Street Books, Almonte. 256-9090

Youth Dance - James Bond Theme, Mar 22, 6-9PM. Brunton Community Hall, Beckwith. 257-1539

Music

Long Sault Trio, Mar 1, 7:30PM. Coffee-house, live music. Althorpe Bolingbroke Community Hall, \$10

Sublime Strings, Mar 2, 8PM. \$30/\$15 at 256-4554, almonteinconcert.com, or at the door. Almonte Old Town Hall

Drum Circle, Mar 6, 7PM. w/Jeremy Wrench, St. Paul's United Church, 3760 Carp Rd., Carp. By donation

Music Workshops, Mar 8, 7PM, Bodhran & Irish Session Music, \$30. Mar 9, 3PM, Beginner Hand Drumming, \$25. Mar 23, 2PM, Blues Guitar, \$35. Mississippi Mills Musicworks, Almonte. 256-7529

Catherine MacLellan/Jonathan Byrd, Mar 9, 8PM. MERA Schoolhouse, McDonalds Corners. 268-2376. \$24/\$20 in adv. (Tickets Please. 485-6434)

Perth Manor Chamber Music, Mar 9, 7:30PM. Clarinet & piano. \$35+HST. Perth Manor. 264-0050.

White Lake Acoustic Jam, Mar 9, 7-10PM. White Lake Fire Hall, 142 Burnstown Rd. 256-5439. \$5 (members free)

Traditional Song Session, Mar 10, 2-4PM. The Barley Mow, Almonte. 482-1437, dpbaril@gmail.com

Fiddlers' Night/Dinner, Mar 15, 6PM. Home-cooked dinner 7pm, then music & dancing. Almonte Civitan Hall. \$12

MARCH 2013

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alex Tompkins, Gaia Java Annie Jr., Carleton Place Long Sault Trio, Bolingbroke Cactus Flower, Smiths Falls Ghetto Xpress, The Cove | <p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annie Jr., Carleton Place Book Reading/Genealogical Soc Mtg, Perth Cactus Flower, Smiths Falls Diamond Jubilee Celebration, Carleton Place Maple Syrup Tapping Out Party, Lanark Highlands March Meltdown, Beckwith MMLTC AGM, Lanark MVTM Soup for Thought Fundraiser, Almonte New Country Rehab, Neat Coffee Shop Shawn McCullough, The Cove Sublime Strings, Almonte | <p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte in Concert Music Club, Almonte APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Cactus Flower, Smiths Falls Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Seedy Sunday, Pembroke Seedy Sunday, Perth Valley Singles Lunch, Almonte |
| <p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bodhran & Irish Session Music, Almonte Cactus Flower, Smiths Falls Dynamite Motel, Gaia Java Evening of One-Act Plays & Music, Almonte Meet the Artist, Carleton Place Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp Vernissage, Carleton Place | <p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginner Hand Drumming, Almonte Cactus Flower, Smiths Falls Catherine MacLellan/Jonathan Byrd, MERA Evening of One-Act Plays & Music, Almonte Head over Heels, The Cove Jeff Rogers, Neat Coffee Shop Magic & Illusion, Perth Perth Manor Chamber Music, Perth PFG, The Downstairs Pub Sleigh Rides & More, Fulton's White Lake Acoustic Jam, White Lake | <p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cactus Flower, Smiths Falls Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Sleigh Rides & More, Fulton's Traditional Song Session, Almonte |
| <p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambush, The Downstairs Pub Fiddlers' Night/Dinner, Almonte Gretchen Martin, Gaia Java Jack de Keyzer, Westport LIPS Poetry Slam, Carleton Place Sleigh Rides & More, Fulton's | <p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claytones/Ariana Gillis, Almonte Jack de Keyzer, Westport Meet Curious George, Almonte MERA Weavers, Lanark Sleigh Rides & More, Pakenham Talk: Allergy Prevention, Carp | <p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fred Eaglesmith, Perth Meet Curious George, Almonte Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Sleigh Rides & More, Fulton's St Patty's Party w/Crooked Wood, The Cove |
| <p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Lectures, Almonte Zero Dark Thirty, Smiths Falls jkstraw, Gaia Java Peter Karp, Sue Foley & Band, Perth Peter Karp/Sue Foley Blues Guitar, Perth Steve Barrette Trio, The Swan at Carp Tannis Slimmon/Jennifer Noxon, Almonte Treasa Levasseur & The Daily Special, Perth Youth Dance, Beckwith | <p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alpaca 101, Ompah Peter Karp/Sue Foley Blues Guitar, Almonte Community Potluck/Music Jam, Bolingbroke Zero Dark Thirty, Smiths Falls Keith Glass, Perth Pakenham Maple Run Studio Tour Peter Karp, Sue Foley & Band, Almonte The Rippers, The Downstairs Pub | <p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonte Big Band Tea Dance, Almonte Magnolia Rhythm Kings, The Royal Oak Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Pakenham Maple Run Studio Tour Pancake Breakfast, Almonte |
| <p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patrick Smith Quartet, Gaia Java Sleigh Rides & More, Fulton's | <p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cool Britannia, The Downstairs Pub Head over Heels, The Cove JP Cormier, Neat Coffee Shop Live At The Met: Aida, Amprior Mississippi Jug Stompers, Lanark Sleigh Rides & More, Fulton's | <p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> APEX Jazz Band, The Royal Oak Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, Ashton Pub Sleigh Rides & More, Fulton's Spiritual Cinema Circle, Perth |

Gaia Java (1300 Stittsville Main St., 836-5469): Live music Fridays, 7-9PM, free
 Mar 1 Alex Tompkins
 Mar 8 Dynamite Motel
 Mar 15 Gretchen Martin
 Mar 22 jkstraw
 Mar 29 Patrick Smith Quartet

Community

Diamond Jubilee Celebration, Mar 2, 6PM. CP Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, CP Arena, 257-1976. \$20

Maple Syrup Tapping Out Party, Mar 2, 10AM-2PM. Pancake breakfast, music, etc. Thompsonstown Maple Products. 256-1826, thompsonstownmaple.ca.

March Meltdown, Mar 2, 8:30AM-2PM. Pancakes at Brunton Hall, sleigh rides, Chili Cook Off. Beckwith Park

MMLTC AGM, Mar 2, 2PM. Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust Conservancy, Lanark Civitan Club

MVTM Soup for Thought, Mar 2, Noon. Gourmet soup in a handmade bowl to keep! \$20/\$10 at Baker Bob's. Textile Museum, Almonte. 256-3754, mvtn.ca.

Seedy Sunday, Mar 3, 10AM-3PM. Gardening talks, lunch, seed sales. Fellowes High School, Pembroke. 628-1836. Free

Seedy Sunday, Mar 3, 10AM-3PM. Seed sellers, workshops, vendors. Perth Legion. smackenzie@juno.com. Free admission

Valley Singles Lunch, Mar 3, 1-2:30PM. To register, call 256-8117 or 432-7622., Superior Restaurant, 84 Mill St., Almonte.

Food Charter Mtg, Mar 04, 1:30-3PM. Food, sustainable farming, etc. Leeds, Grenville, & Lanark Health Unit, SF. 345-5685x2215. Free

SchoolBOX Fashion Show, Mar 06, 6:30PM. Fundraiser for Equator trip to Nicaragua. Equator, Almonte. \$10

Sleigh Rides & More, Mar 9-17, 10AM-2PM. Sleigh rides, face painting, taffy on snow. Fultons, 256-3867, fultons.ca.

PFLAG Carleton Place, Mar 11, 7-8:30PM. With LGBT youth drop-in. Zion-Memorial United Church, CP. 859-0100

West Carleton Garden Club, Mar 12, 7:30-9PM. Mark Dallas (roses). Carp Memorial Hall. wcgarden@gmail.com

Adult Bereavement Groups, Mar 13, (1-3PM, Lanark Lodge, Perth); Mar 27 (1:30-3:30PM, Waterside Park, CP). 267-6400. Free. rebeccab@chslc.ca

MERA Weavers, Mar 16. Temple's Sugar Bush, 1700 Ferguson's Falls Rd, Lanark. 253-7000, templessugarbush.ca

Talk: Allergy Prevention, Mar 16, 1-3PM. w/Katherine Willow, N.D., Carp Ridge EcoWellness, Carp. 839-1198. Free

Community Potluck, Mar 19, 5:30-7PM. Bring a potluck item. Community garden/food discussions. Almonte Old Town Hall. jstratford@rogers.com. Free

Relay For Life in Mississippi Mills Team Captain Rally, Mar 19, 7PM. Learn about 2013 fundraiser. Cancer.ca/mississippimills to register. Almonte Reformed Presbyterian Church. 267-1058

Mind-Body Healing Talk, Mar 21, 7-8:30PM. RSVP, Carp Ridge EcoWellness, Carp. 839-1198, ecowellness.com. \$20

Almonte Lectures, Mar 22, 7:30PM. James Wright: Beethoven's immortal beloved. Almonte United Church. don_wiles@carleton.ca. Free - donations accepted

Alpaca 101, Mar 23. Silent Valley Alpaca Ranch, 1120 Donaldson Rd., Ompah. 479-0307, silentvalleyalpaca.ca.

Pancake Breakfast, Mar 24, 8AM-Noon. GF avail., Union Hall, Wolf Grove Rd. at Tatlock Rd., Almonte.

Almonte & District Horticultural Soc., Mar 25, 7:30PM. Cornerstone Community Church, Almonte.

Jack de Keyzer, Mar 15 & 16, 7PM. Blues on the Rideau. The Cove, Westport. Reserve at 1-888-COVE-INN, \$60+tax dinner & show

Claytones/Ariana Gillis, Mar 16, 8PM. \$27, at Mill Street Books/door. Almonte Old Town Hall, 256-9090, folkusalmonte.ca.

Fred Eaglesmith, Mar 17, 8PM. \$25 at fred eaglesmith.com; \$30 at door. Perth Civitan Hall, County Road 43, Perth.

Peter Karp, Sue Foley & Band, Mar 22, 8PM at St Paul's United in Perth, tickets from ticketsplease.ca. Mar 23, 8PM at Almonte Old Town Hall, tickets from mmmusicworks.ca. karpfoley.com \$20

Peter Karp/Sue Foley Blues Guitar Workshop, Mar 22, 6PM. St Paul's United Church, Perth. 485-6434, karpfoley.com

Tannis Slimmon/Jennifer Noxon, Mar 22, 7:30PM. Peace of Mind Creations, Heritage Court, Almonte. 461-7662. \$20

Treasa Levasseur, Mar 22, 8PM. PPAC. Tickets Please, 485-6434, ticketsplease.ca. PDCl auditorium, 13 Victoria St., Perth

Community Potluck/Jam, Mar 23, 5-10PM. Althorpe Bolingbroke Community Hall. 273-2571. \$5/\$10 + potluck dish

Keith Glass, Mar 23, 8PM. Songs From The Valley. ticketsplease.ca. Studio Theatre, Perth. 485-6434, \$25

Almonte Big Band Tea Dance, Mar 24, 1-4PM. Almonte Old Town Hall. 563-7044, sroteadances.org. \$14/\$25 couple

Mississippi Jug Stompers, Mar 30, 10:30AM. Temple's Sugar Bush, Lanark. 253-7000, templessugarbush.ca. Free

The Swan at Carp (Falldown Lane Carp, 839-7926): jazz
 Mar 8, 22 Steve Barrette Trio, 7-10PM, no cover
O'Reilly's Pub (43 Gore St. E., Perth, 267-7994): 8:30PM. Brock Zeman Tues, Open Jam w/Dave Balfour Wed, Ali McCormick Thurs

The Downstairs Pub (385 Ottawa St., Almonte, 256-2031): Tues Open Mic w/Jumpin' Jimmy, 8-11PM
 Mar 9 PFG (9PM)
 Mar 15 Ambush (9PM)
 Mar 23 The Rippers (9PM)
 Mar 30 Cool Britannia (9PM)

The Cove (2 Bedford St., Westport, 273-3636):
 Mar 1 Ghetto Xpress (8-11PM)
 Mar 2 Shawn McCullough (6-9PM)
 Mar 9, 30 Head over Heels (6-9PM)
 Mar 17 St. Patty's Party w/Crooked Wood, (1-4PM)
 Mar 28 Spencer Evans Trio (9-11PM)

Ballygiblin's (151 Bridge St., Carleton Place, 253-7400), jazz, no cover
 Mar 7 Peter Brown, Don Paterson, Glenn Robb & guests (6-9PM)

The Naismith Pub (411 Ottawa St., Almonte, 256-6336): Open Celtic Jam Wed, no charge, 7:30-10PM

Neat Coffee Shop (1715 Calabogie Rd., Burnstown, 433-3205): 8PM
 Mar 2 New Country Rehab, \$20
 Mar 9 Jeff Rogers, \$15
 Mar 13 & 14 Fred Eaglesmith, \$30
 Mar 21 Grapes of Wrath, \$30
 Mar 27 SoundCheck open mic
 Mar 30 J.P. Cormier, \$20

Carp Masonic Lodge (3704 Carp Rd., Carp): Carp Celtic Jam, \$3/\$25 for 3 mos, all levels, Mon, 7-9PM

Ashton Pub (113 Old Mill Rd., Ashton): Sundays Open Mic w/Kelly Sloan, 2-5PM

Love That Barr (2496 County Rd. 29, Pakenham, 624-2000): Thurs Open Mic 8PM

Alice's Village Café (3773 Carp Rd., Carp, 470-2233): Thurs Acoustic Open Jam w/Curtis Chaffey 7PM

The Royal Oak (329 March Rd. Kanata, 591-3895): jazz on Sun, no cover
 Mar 3, 31 APEX Jazz Band (2-5PM)
 Mar 10, 24 Magnolia Rhythm Kings (3-6PM)

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Creative March Break Camp

After the success of their partnership last year, the Almonte Potter's Guild and the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum are once again teaming up to offer an exciting, creative, full-day March Break Camp. Spring is the inspiration behind the many interesting crafts and projects that kids will participate in.



Five full days of creativity, with many projects and activities, will keep kids inspired and engaged. Keeping the group small will ensure that each child is able to work at their own pace. Skilled potters from the Potter's Guild will guide kids through the processes of hand-building and wheel-throwing. They will construct animals from clay and try mask-making as well. At the Textile Museum, kids will dye their own wool for a felting project, decorate an umbrella, make nests, and learn to make and use their own spool-knitter. This year is the first time that the campers will be able to make use of the fabulous new Education Room in the upstairs gallery of the museum.

The camp will also include a supervised heritage walking tour of Almonte, from the Potter's Guild to the Textile Museum, at lunchtime each day.

The hours of the camp are 9AM to 4PM, with drop off at the Potter's Guild and pick up at the Textile Museum. It is for children aged 8 to 12, and costs \$250 per child. Please call 256-3754 by March 6 to reserve a spot in the camp. For more information, visit the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum's website at <mvtm.ca>, call the Textile Museum at 256-3754, or call the Potter's Guild at 256-5556.

— Linda Hamilton

Music Matters

In Praise of Administrators

Notre Dame Catholic High School in Carleton Place recently received some wonderful news: our principal was named as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals, an award which all of our staff and school community felt was richly deserved.

The importance of administrators is often overlooked or taken for granted. However, if you were to poll music and drama teachers, as well as coaches, they would

by Tony Stuart

be the first to say that the success of their endeavours is very dependent on the administration at the school. I've been teaching for a long time, and I really appreciate just how fortunate I am, and how our administration has played an important part in the growth of our music program.

Being an administrator in today's school system requires a diverse skill set, as they have many different hats to wear. The tone of a school is set by the type of leadership they provide. Balancing the needs of students, parents, staff, and the community at large is no easy task.

One of things that I appreciate most is the level of support that we receive from our principal. He is the first person to admit that he is a sports guy and knows very little about music, but he genuinely appreciates the hard work that these students put in, and the results that they achieve. Band students feel that they are valuable members of the school community, and the tone that he sets is one of the big reasons why we have so many student athletes who are also part of our band program. He attends every concert, and frequently stops in during rehearsals just to have a listen. Students notice these things, just as they notice if they aren't being supported.

I also appreciate the fact that I'm trusted to be able to know how to do my job without being micro-managed. This is a sentiment that is echoed by

the entire staff. When you feel like your expertise is valued, and that you know how to make decisions for the benefit of your program, it really makes a difference. At our school, if one of the arts teachers or coaches has an idea, the answer isn't automatically "no" but rather, "how can we make this work?" This encourages all of us to be creative and find ways to enrich the school experience for our students.

I have also seen situations at other schools where colleagues have felt handcuffed, feeling like they have very little decision-making power. This has a trickle-down effect, because morale is affected at every level. Pretty soon, a negative energy takes over. Coincidentally, whether in a school or in an office, incidences of sick days and transfers seem to be more prevalent in these environments.

The same can be said of orchestras, bands and choirs. The leadership provided by a conductor is instrumental (pun fully intended!) in determining what type of environment is created. We've all heard stories of serious rifts between conductors and their

When you feel like your expertise is valued, and that you know how to make decisions for the benefit of your program, it really makes a difference.

musicians. At the end of the day, this takes away from music-making, and creates a lot of negativity.

I guess what it comes down to is that positive environments, where people feel valued, tend to produce positive results. It's a case of trusting that the people who work for you know what they are doing, and creating an environment where they want to achieve. It is a lesson that I'm continuing to learn as I work with young people.

Music-making should be a positive, empowering experience, and I believe that this environment exists at our school. For that, I'm grateful.

— Tony Stuart is the Music Director at Notre Dame Catholic High School in Carleton Place, and a freelance professional musician.

What's Your Best-Before Date?

A friend brought us a box of chocolates last week, saying she'd had them a while, but thought the "best before" date was still valid. We said we didn't care, as we thought it *best* to eat them *before* she changed her mind about leaving them. Further, a couple of us said we'd already likely passed our own *best-before* date, so it wouldn't make a lot of difference. It would have been *best* if we'd closed the lid *before* we had eaten two each though!

by Glenda Jones

So just what does that date mean anyway? If something is best before a date, is it still all right two days later? How about a week later? Could the label say "best before...", and then "still all right on...", and then "not so good after..." and then "throw this out on..."? And would someone still try it after the throw-away date, kind of the way we all have to touch the "wet paint" to really test it?

Everything has an expiry date — even people. But we don't have to accept it without a fight. I, for example, used to think my best-before date was when I was around thirty years old. Kids were growing up well and happy, and we were settled in a cozy little Maritime house. I was past diapers on babies, building a little business, and thought the world was rotating in a pretty good way. Life couldn't have been better, and it sure seemed like the best of times to me.

So I was sure when I reached forty I was likely testing that best-before date. But no, I was still improving, so that couldn't have been it either. Maybe fifty would be the magic number. After all, simple math would indicate I'd passed the half-way mark, right? Maybe I would settle for the "still all right" stage. I can't say I felt like that though, as I found so many new challenges to undertake, and success coming along with them. I stockpiled the previous experiences to enrich the new ones, sort of like a rare wine gaining nuances of excellence. It turned out fifty was really a blast, and I forgot about sitting at the top of the hill and waiting for the downward push. As a matter of fact, I was too busy to even walk to

the top of the hill to see the view! But I could have, just remember that. That was my better-than-before stage.

I figured sixty would signal the "still all right" phase for sure, but it didn't happen. I found all sorts of new interests that kept me learning and active. Oh, there were days when I felt like the label "not so good after..." might be creeping up on me, but those days were few and far between. In fact, as I looked around my circle of friends, I saw all of us as better-than-before. None of us were aging at all. And don't be saying, "Old eyes are dim, and old brains addled!"

So along came seventy, and what do you know, it turned out to be pretty much like forty, fifty, and sixty. I'd come through best-before and better-than-before, and I've decided that's where I'm going to remain. I don't feel any older except on the days the snow is piled a foot deep and my shovel is just not up to the task. No one I know feels older either, so I think we're all enjoying a long hiatus of better-than-before. In fact, most of us are in the better-than-ever category. Fine wine? Ohhh yes!

If I were that box of chocolates, I'd likely be well beyond the ascribed date, but for the life of me, I don't feel like I'm going stale yet. In fact,

If I were that box of chocolates, I'd likely be well beyond the ascribed date, but for the life of me, I don't feel like I'm going stale yet.

this past year has been an invigorating one: between Sage Age, my dog training, and now this hospice we are establishing, I marvel at the energy all this activity spawns. I'm busy planning what I want/need to do next, when I get some spare time.

I'm confident I've got a way to go before the still-all-right date even, and for sure I don't want the "not-so-good" label, and definitely not the "throw away after..." No one ever deserves that one!

It's like that saying: how old would you be if you didn't know when you were born? So pick an age — it's the best, no matter what it is. Be the box of chocolates, and just don't accept that phony date they stamp on the bottom of the box. Savour every morsel — you've earned it!

— Glenda Jones



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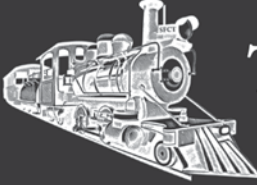
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Photo by Jennifer A. Jilks

Perth Prepares to Present *Missa Gaia*

The choir of St. Paul's United Church, St. James Anglican Church, and friends, will be presenting Paul Winter's *Missa Gaia* at St. Paul's in Perth on Sunday, April 21, at 7:30PM. Above, the choir rehearses a section from the contemporary mass during one of their weekly Tuesday night practices, accompanied by pianist Val Leavitt. Ticket information and more details about the performance will appear in the April edition of *theHumm*.

Get in Touch With Your Inner Dancer!

Are you one of those people who look at me with barely concealed surprise when I tell you I take dancing lessons? Here I am, closing in on 60, average height, shortish legs, gray hair, generally ungraceful, and with no dance training; yet I look forward to my dance class at the Pakenham arena on Wednesday evenings. There I join four other middle-aged women in performing flowing, exhilarating exercises that improve our strength, balance, flexibility, concentration, posture, co-ordination, endurance and mental abilities. The music is inspiring (none of that thumping, monotonous noise); the instructor, Susan Jack, is talented and patient; and the moves are challenging, yet doable. We all leave at the end of class feeling happy, relaxed and ten years younger.

This form of dance, the Margaret Morris Method (MMM), was invented just over 100 years ago in England by Margaret Morris (during the same era as Isadora Duncan, one of the founders of the modern dance movement in the United States). Margaret Morris felt constricted by the formality of classical ballet, and evolved a dance form that was not only more natural and free-flowing, but also had many therapeutic benefits. In fact, her repertoire includes remedial dance exercises for physically handicapped people. Margaret Morris incorporated elements from different sources, including her knowledge of physiotherapy (which led her to create movements that stretch every muscle in the body — in our class we even do eye, finger and foot exercises!), and Hatha yoga (which is evident in the deep breathing and synchronized breathing that are part of the dance movements).

MMM is now an international phenomenon, with classes held in several cities and towns in Ontario (including Almonte, Carleton Place, Pakenham and Arnprior), Quebec and some western Canadian provinces, and also Britain, Switzerland, Germany, the United States, Australia, Japan, South Africa and Sweden.

The beauty of this method is that anyone can do it — whether you're 3 years old, or 103! There are several video clips on the internet showing groups of men, women and children of different ages, abilities and nationalities, executing creative, graceful routines. You have a choice, too, of whether to take the recreational route, like me, or to follow the professional route, progressing through the eleven skill levels towards a certificate.

Our instructor, Susan Jack, has been involved in MMM for over thirty years, and has been teaching in the Ottawa area for close to ten years. She completed the final performance level in MMM with distinction three years ago. Susan is enthusiastic about dance, confident and clear as she demonstrates and explains each move, and patient as she encourages us to execute the moves to the best of our abilities. She always shows modifications of the more difficult exercises to accommodate our infirmities. And even if you're a klutz like me when it comes to remembering the dance patterns, she always smiles because she knows you're doing your best and trying hard, and that's what really matters.

So contact Susan at susanjack@gmail.com if you'd like to drop in on one of her classes and see what they're like, or if you'd like to sign up for the next session starting in April. I hope to see you there!
— Theresa Peluso

Opportunity Blooms in Almonte

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Adventure Travel Near and Far

If you have an adventurous spirit, you will not want to miss Judy Watts' presentation "Rough Travel in the Arctic — by Kayak, Canoe, Raft and Foot"!

Now living in Lanark County, Watts worked in the North West Territories and Nunavut for sixteen years. She will talk and show pictures of her many travels in the Arctic — trips planned on her own and through outfitters — even a spring snowmobile trip on the ice in north Baffin Island.

During the same evening, find out about the abundant local opportunities to kayak and canoe on the creeks, rivers and lakes close to home. Booths will include: Paddle Lanark County and Beyond (Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists), Frontenac County Parks and Recreation, 1000 Islands Kayak-



ing — St. Lawrence Islands National Park (Parks Canada), equipment displays, sales (including Black Spruce Gear), and much, much more! There will also be a silent auction, refreshments and door prizes.

It's all happening at Adventure Travels Near & Far, on Friday, April 12. Doors open at 6:30PM, with the presentation at 7:15PM, all at the Almonte United Church Social Hall at 106 Elgin Street.

Entry is by freewill donation — all proceeds from the evening will go to the Likulezi Project, a Community Care Project in Malawi, <africaaware-likulezi.org>. For more information, contact Doug Younger-Lewis at 256-2738 or <dougyounger@rogers.com>.



Come to the Almonte United Church on April 12 to learn about adventure travels and raise funds for the Likulezi Project

Heritage Mica Days

On these gray and dismal late winter days, the spring and summer seasons seem quite elusive. However, the planners of the 2013 Heritage Mica Days have been hard at work preparing an action-packed schedule of events to keep everyone busy from June through Thanksgiving. Heritage Mica Days takes place at Murphys Point Provincial Park, located about twenty minutes southwest of Perth.

From open house tours of the Silver Queen Mine with costumed interpreters and heritage displays, to a wide variety of music and food events and the popular Dinner Theatre, you are sure to find an activity that meets the needs of your family. Visit the restored ore wagon and the horses that have joined this display since last season. Chow down on some corn on the cob at the campfire pit. Sit back and enjoy the call of the loons who accompany musical guests at the outdoor amphitheatre. Meet the spirits of the Silver Queen Mine on the popular evening Spirit Walks. Or simply relax on the beach and enjoy a BBQ lunch or pancake brunch.

One piece of exciting news to share is the development of the Heritage Mica Days festival website at <heritagemica-days.ca>. Here you can find a complete detailed listing of all scheduled festival events, as well as some history of the event and information about the Silver Queen Mine and the Friends of Murphys Point Park. You can also browse the calendar pages to easily see which dates have



festival activities scheduled. There is an opportunity to become a "Mica Mate", and you can purchase tickets securely through the website using the PayPal program. Check the website frequently as updates will be made as new activities or musicians are booked.

Heritage Mica Days is a program of the Friends of Murphys Point Park, a registered non-profit charity that formed in 1995. They work in cooperation with Ontario Parks and are one of dozens of Friends organizations throughout the province. For additional information about Heritage Mica Days, you can email <eventsmurphys@ripnet.com> or call 267-5340.

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Memories of Lanark County in New Book

Last month, visitors to The Book Nook on Gore Street in Perth took a trip down memory lane as author Arlene Stafford-Wilson launched her latest book: *Lanark County Chronicle — Double Back to the Third Line*. The new book follows on the heels of *Lanark County Kid* and once again takes the reader back to the 1960s and 1970s in the communities of Perth, Smiths Falls, Almonte, Port Elmsley and the Rideau Lakes, to name a few.

An avid historian and former newsletter editor of the Lanark County Genealogical Society, Stafford-Wilson grew up on the third concession of Tay Valley Township. She attended area schools and has channelled her love of history into three books featuring local stories and tales of growing up on the farm in the post-war years in Lanark County.

Her first book, *Recipes and Recollections*, is a compilation of her late mother's prize-winning recipes from her days of judging at fairs in Lanark County. "Our mother was a keen competitor at the Perth and Maberly Fairs for decades, and we wanted to preserve her prize-winning recipes, along with stories from my four siblings and me growing up on the farm outside of Perth."

Stafford-Wilson's second book, *Lanark County Kid*, is a collection of short stories about life in a rural community during the 1960s and '70s, and some of



Author Arlene Stafford-Wilson launched her latest book last month at The Book Nook in Perth (above, with owner Leslie Wallack). She will be speaking at Archives Lanark on Saturday, March 2 at 1:30PM

the people and places she encountered.

It features stories about local places like the Balderson Cheese Factory, the Kitten Mill in Lanark, and Oakes' Bakery and Haggis Candy in Perth.

"Like the first two books, *Lanark County Chronicle* features stories from this area, and there is an index at the back of the book of all of the local people mentioned. Anyone from the area will likely recognize many of the surnames in the index — you may even see your own name!" explains Stafford-Wilson.

"The stories in my latest book will bring the reader along on

my adventures at the Hershey factory in Smiths Falls, the Port Elmsley Drive-In, the Rideau Ferry Inn, and even a cattle drive in Ferguson's Falls, to name a few."

Leslie Wallack, owner of The Book Nook, says she's had a waiting list of people who want to purchase *Lanark County Kid*, and that *Recipes and Recollections* has also sold well. The book shelves are re-stocked now and all three books are available for St. Patrick's Day gift-giving.

Copies of Arlene's books are also available at Mill Street Books in Almonte, The Book Nook and The Bookworm in Perth, and Arlie's Books in Smiths Falls.

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LiPS: Magpie in March

They have a saying about March coming in like a lamb and leaving like a lion, or vice versa. In Lanark County, spring will be presaged by a magpie! Magpie Ulysses, that is. Flying all the way from Nelson, BC, Magpie will be featured at the March edition of the **Lanark County Live Poets Society's** (also known as LiPS) spoken word Slam on Friday, March 15, at The Thirsty Moose in Carleton Place.

Magpie Ulysses is a dynamic performance poet and storyteller known for charming and slaying her audiences with intense stage presence and thoughtful insight about humanity. Her "confessional poems hit hard and take the reader through intense visceral terrain, but never wallow." (Robert Priest, NOW magazine).

Magpie began performing poems at the age of 17 in Calgary, Alberta. She has performed across North America at hundreds of venues, and is a veteran of the Vancouver poetry slam, where she was a member of two national champion slam teams and was the winner of Vancouver's 2008 CBC Poetry Face Off. Last fall, Magpie was named a Poet of Honour at the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word.

So much of her work surrounds the things we don't say. She speaks on the topics of history, science, love, exploration, abuse, addictions, environmentalism, human triumph, sacrifice and struggle. Magpie is currently living in Nelson, where she is working on a project, on behalf of the Canada Council for the Arts, about storytelling, adaptations and human spirit. It's based upon her experiences of hitchhiking more than 25,000 kilometers in her late teens and early twenties.

For more about Magpie, visit her website at <magpieulysses.ca>.

LiPS will also be hosting their monthly slam — a spoken word poetry competition. Anyone is wel-



BC's Magpie Ulysses will be the featured performer at the LiPS Spoken Word Slam on March 15 at The Thirsty Moose

come to participate. All you need are two original works no more than three minutes long. There is also an open mic before the slam, for those who might wish to share their poetry, song, short story or music. LiPS is always happy to welcome new performers, whether they be "old" veterans of poetry or those taking the risk of sharing their work for the first time. You will find everyone — artists and audience alike — welcoming and supportive.

Or simply come out and enjoy a wonderful evening and the amazing work of Magpie Ulysses!

The event gets underway at 7PM, upstairs at The Thirsty Moose, but come earlier if you wish to sign up, get a good seat, or have something to eat. Admission is only \$5 and free for performers.

For more information, contact LiPS at <lanarklips@hotmail.com> or look for LiPS on Facebook.

— Tammy MacKenzie

The fiVe in Pakenham Chamber Music Concert on April 14

Formed in 2003 by members of Ottawa's Divertimento Orchestra, *The fiVe* have pursued their passion both for playing chamber music and for exploring lesser-known musical gems. They have created many original arrangements for wind quintet. Audiences delight in their engaging introductions and masterful playing of pieces, from baroque and classical to musicals and ragtime.

Members of *The fiVe* are: Elsa Slater, flute; David Sale, oboe; Angela Blackwell, clarinet; Bob Brown, French horn; and Gordon Slater, bassoon.

You will have a unique opportunity to hear this ensemble perform in the wonderful acoustics of St. Andrews United Church in Pakenham, on Sunday, April 14. Entitled "Celebration", their concert will feature music drawn from all the special events of life. Enjoy coffee or tea and some marvellous desserts at 3PM. The performance will begin at 4PM.

Tickets are \$15, and are available at the Pakenham General Store and of course at the door.

Spring CLASSES

DRAWING
Tuesday Afternoon
CALLIGRAPHY
Tuesday Evening
To register call Doris Wionzek, B.F.A., B.Ed.
613-256-4172 - wionzek@ncf.ca

Classes begin in March 2013

FERRARO ART WORKSHOPS

Level 4 Life Drawing: Portraiture
March 18 to 20
Level 5 Life Drawing: Putting It All Together
April 15 to 17
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May 27 to 31
Pastel: The Painting Medium
A study in underpainting
June 10 to 14
Plein Air in Southwest France
October 15 to 26

to register, or for more information: (613) 839-5241
margferraro@xplornet.ca or www.ferraro-art.com

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Almonte Travel is closing March 31, 2013.
All on-going files will be taken care of by Leslie Golding at Stittsville Travel. Full details are being mailed to all clients.
Thank you for your patronage since our opening in July, 1989.
— Jerome and Halina Knap

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Sat.Mar.2 **Shawn McCullough**, Solo Country, 6-9
Sat.Mar.9 **Head Over Heels**, Vocal Guitar Duo, 6-9
Fri.Mar.15 & Sat.Mar.16 Blues on the Rideau with **Jack de Keyzer**, \$60/person Buffet and Show, 7-11
Sun.Mar.17 **St. Patty's Party** with **Crooked Wood**, 1-4
Thu.Mar.28 Easter Jazz Night with **Spencer Evans Trio**, 9-11
Sat.Mar.30 **Head Over Heels**, Vocal Guitar Duo, 6-9

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March 2013